

## Haitian leader steps down

PORT-AU-PRINCE (AP) — Lieutenant General Prosper Avril, who came to power in a 1988 coup and has been under increasing pressure to resign, turned over power to another general Saturday, the independent television station Tele-Haiti reported. The report, which could not be immediately confirmed, said Avril handed power over to Gen. Herve Alphonse, the army chief of staff who is to govern until an interim government takes over within 72 hours. Tele-Haiti said Avril was no longer commander-in-chief of the army and will return "to private life" in his suburban Port-au-Prince home. A civilian reached by telephone at the presidential palace did not say whether Avril had already stepped down, but he said he was retiring from the army. The official, who asked not to be identified, said Avril's presidential guard accepted the transition and "everything's going to turn out all right." Thousands of people waving symbolic tree branches demonstrated in downtown Port-au-Prince to celebrate Avril's resignation. See earlier story on page 8.

# Jordan Times

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## Cabinet passes copyrights law

AMMAN (Petra) — The Cabinet Saturday endorsed a new draft law for copyrights. The Cabinet, chaired by Prime Minister Mudar Badran, decided to forward the draft law to Parliament to consider.

## Panel works on new PNC

AMMAN (J.T.) — The current session of the Palestine National Council (PNC) has ended and a decision has been taken to set up a new council grouping new members. Palestinian sources here said that a special committee chaired by Palestinian President Yasser Arafat had been called to meet in Tunis on March 13 to lay down guidelines for the new council. The committee includes Salim Al Zaouani, Mahmoud Tayyem, Mohammad Sobehi, Jamal Al Sourani, Badie Al Abul Jibee, Sami Khalil Saleh, Mohammad Al Maslami, Abdul Rahman Al Hourani and Ibrahim Assad, the sources said.

## Abie Nathan meets Arafat in Tunis

TUNIS (R) — Israeli pacifist Abie Nathan, who served a four-month jail term in Israel for meeting Yasser Arafat, said he held another meeting with the Palestinian leader in Tunis Friday. He told Reuters Saturday that he spoke with Arafat for an hour, making "several proposals on what could be done relating to bringing about a climate of peace and reducing some of the misgivings on both sides, to create hope and understanding. I told him there is a big desire, more than ever before, for peace among the people of Israel, and we hope that our leaders have the courage and vision not to let the people of Israel down." He said his proposals were designed "to give more credibility for direct dialogue with the PLO." He gave no other details. It was Nathan's seventh meeting with the PLO leader since 1982. Israeli bans contacts between its citizens and members of the PLO. "If I have to spend the rest of my life in jail, I will continue to fight this law which stops people from talking peace," he said.

## Pope to meet with Havel next month

VATICAN CITY (AP) — Pope John Paul will meet with President Vaclav Havel of Czechoslovakia next month during the pontiff's visit to Prague, the Vatican said Saturday. The Pope's 33-hour trip to Czechoslovakia will be his first visit to a Warsaw Pact country other than his native Poland. The April 21-22 visit will include a visit to Havel in the official presidential residence.

## Lesotho king goes into exile

MASERU, Lesotho (AP) — King Moshoeshoe II of Lesotho is going into exile in Britain after a bitter dispute with the country's military government, palace officials said Saturday. The king of the mountainous African nation left for London Saturday, according to palace officials, who declined to be named. But government officials said the king was going on holiday to rest for an unspecified period.

## Italian Communists to form new party

BOLOGNA, Italy (R) — Italy's Communist Party, the West's biggest, took a first step Saturday towards transforming itself into a social democratic organisation following the collapse of communism in Eastern Europe. But as party chief Achille Occhetto appealed for unity among members, the hardline old guard indicated they would fight on to try to preserve communism. Occhetto spoke as delegates, representing the Italian Communist Party's 1.4 million members, wound up a four-day congress and began voting on policy changes. These included electing a new central committee and backing moves by Occhetto, 54, to change the logo and name of the party officially known as the PCI, and create a new social democratic movement encompassing various left-wing groups.

## Badran delivers King's message, holds talks with Prince Abdullah

# S. Arabia promises to study Jordan's needs

## Prime minister urges U.S. action against Jerusalem settlement plans

By a Jordan Times Staff Writer

AMMAN — The Saudi leadership has been briefed on Jordan's pressing financial needs and has promised to consider them, Prime Minister Mudar Badran said Saturday. The prime minister, in a statement opoo his return from Riyadh, Saudi Arabia, after a short working visit, said he delivered to King Fahd a message from His Majesty King Hussein on bilateral ties and discussed Jordan's financial and economic difficulties with Saudi Crown Prince Abdullah Bin Abdul Aziz.

"I delivered the King's message to King Fahd and held detailed talks with Prince Abdullah on bilateral ties," said the prime

minister in the statement carried by the Jordan News Agency, Petra. "Our discussions covered Jordan's current needs in view of the financial difficulties the Kingdom is facing and the economic hardships the country is going through as a result of poor rainfall this season," Badran said.

He said Prince Abdullah "promised to consider these questions in detail and provide a reply in the near future."

On the political front, the prime minister urged the United States to take urgent concrete action against Israeli plans to settle more Jewish immigrants in Arab Jerusalem.

Describing plans unveiled by the Israeli housing minister to construct thousands of housing units for immigrants to Arab Jerusalem as "another catastrophe for the Arab Nation," the prime minister said: "Building settlements in Arab Jerusalem, which is part of the West Bank occupied by Israel since 1967, is a flagrant violation of U.N. Security Council resolutions on the status of Jerusalem since (the city) is part of occupied Palestinian land."

Such settlement, he said, "constitutes an open challenge to the international community, which has already denounced Israel's annexation of Arab Jerusalem to a U.N. resolution."

The United States, he said, has also rejected the annexation in recent statements by its officials. However, he said, U.S. President George Bush should translate into actions his statement a week ago opposing Jewish settlements in Arab Jerusalem.



Mudar Badran

"If these U.S. statements remain without any context then Israel will continue its aggression and hegemony," he said. "I call on the American government to take action."

He said that Israel was violating U.N. Security Council Resolution 242 by building settlements in the occupied Arab territories.

The prime minister said that failure on the part of the international community to take action in this regard should be countered by further pan-Arab solidarity and that any future Arab summit, as King Hussein has said, should serve as a forum of international pressure on Israel to stop its illegal practices in the occupied Arab territories.

# 2 shot dead in Jerusalem amid political storm

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (Agencies) — Israeli police fatally shot two Palestinians in a Jerusalem refugee camp and the Israeli mayor of the occupied Holy City, Teddy Kollek, Saturday blamed U.S. President George Bush for raising tensions with recent statements on the status of the city.

Kollek also noted Palestinian frustration over the lack of progress in peace efforts was mounting in advance of Sunday's inner-cabinet debate.

The Labour Party and the Likud bloc will once again attempt to reach a decision on whether to accept U.S. proposals for holding peace talks in Cairo. The fatal shootings sparked protests in Arab Jerusalem and occurred as Palestinians marked the start of the 28th month of their uprising.

The violence in Jerusalem was some of the worst in the Holy City since the uprising began. The incident Saturday comes after Israeli leaders repeated their claim to Arab Jerusalem despite recent U.S. statements that the status of the land was in dispute and should be resolved by negotiation.

President Bush and Secretary of State James Baker have said in the past 10 days that Israel's policy of settling Jews in the occupied lands, including Arab Jerusalem, was an impediment to peace.

Bush on March 3 told a California news conference "we do not believe there should be new settlements in the West Bank or East Jerusalem."

Israeli leaders have rejected the statements saying Israel would never "redraw" the city and Kollek called Bush's remarks untimely and unjustified.

"I feel offended by lack of knowledge about what is going on here on part of very important people who are our friends who have no idea what's happening," Kollek said on Israel Radio.

Kollek said he was confused by U.S. policy. He said on one hand Bush supported the unity of the city and the right of Jews to live there but on the hand referred to Jewish neighbourhoods in Arab Jerusalem as settlements. This, he said, "is inconsistent with the facts."

Kollek also noted, in a statement released to the press, "the impatience of radical elements in

East Jerusalem with the slowness and uncertainty of the Israeli government in advancing the peace process."

The White House denied Friday a published report that Bush meant to prod Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir by his recent remarks questioning Israel's "sovereignty" over Arab Jerusalem, and insisted Bush merely intended to restate U.S. policy.

"There was no special motivation, it was in response to a question," White House spokesman Martin Fitzwater said of a New York Times report Friday that Bush had deliberately raised the Jerusalem issue to get Shamir's attention.

The report quoted anonymous U.S. officials as saying that Bush was concerned that Shamir was dismissing U.S. objections to the resettlement of Soviet Jews in the occupied West Bank, Gaza Strip and Arab Jerusalem.

"U.S. policy toward East Jerusalem is unchanged," Fitzwater said at a news conference, reading from a briefing paper.

Saturday's violence erupted in

(Continued on page 3)

## Arab League meeting put off

TUNIS (Agencies) — A meeting of Arab League foreign ministers scheduled to open Saturday was postponed after a dispute broke out over proposals to transfer the league's headquarters from Tunis back to Cairo.

Officials said the meeting was put off because of differences over whether the question should be placed on the agenda.

The opening session was delayed for two hours to allow delegations to decide whether to accept Egypt's request that the question be discussed.

Diplomats said later the question remained unsettled after discussions by representatives of the 22 league members with Secretary-General Chadi Khlil and Kuwaiti Foreign Minister Sheikh Sabah Al Ahmad Al Sabah.

Tunisia, backed by Algeria and the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) among others, argues that the transfer of the league's headquarters from Cairo to Tunis was decided by an Arab summit in 1979, and says only another summit can decide whether to transfer it back to Cairo.

Egypt's proposal to shift the headquarters of the league was not formally included in the agenda for the meeting, but it was a technicality since delegates attending league council gatherings are free to raise any issue they find fit, according to the league's procedural structure.

Qasem meets counterparts

Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Marwan Al Qasem, who is representing Jordan at the meeting, held talks earlier in the day with his Iraqi counterpart Tariq Aziz and Egyptian counterpart Ezzat Abdel Meguid, the Jordan News Agency, Petra, said.

The agency said talks among the ministers dealt with the issues on the agenda for the meeting, but did not give any details.

The Tunis meeting was also supposed to have discussed the latest developments in the Arab-Israeli conflict, the threats inherent in Israel's plans to settle hundreds of thousands of Soviet Jews in the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip and the situation in Lebanon.

# Government affirms moves to consolidate liberalisation

By Salamah Ne'matt  
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — The government said Saturday it had lifted a ban on the reentry to the Kingdom of Jordanians whose passports were expired or confiscated, instructed government departments to reinstate civil servants fired for political reasons and began considering the licensing of students' unions at Jordanian universities.

Responding to inquiries by deputies at a session of the Lower House of Parliament, Deputy Prime Minister and Interior Minister Salem Massa'deh assured the House the government had issued instructions to border points and airports in the country to allow the entry of Jordanians whose passports have expired. He said that complaints by deputies that many Jordanians were denied entry to the country were registered before the government's recent instructions.

On the entry of Jordanians whose passports were confiscated for political reasons, Massa'deh said Jordanian embassies abroad were studying such cases individually and were authorised to recommend to concerned authorities here to issue temporary identity cards to facilitate their entry "provided they had enough proof of their identity and nationality."

Leftist Deputy Mansour Murad earlier said he had a list of names belonging to Jordanians who were not allowed entry to the Kingdom because their expired passports were not renewed after they failed to get security clearance.

Murad complained that "embassies abroad were not re-

newing confiscated passports with the excuse that they have not received any new instructions from the Foreign Ministry regarding the new decision."

Massa'deh confirmed that "we have issued instructions to allow their entry. Any complaints must have been related to cases that developed before the instructions were issued. Otherwise 'I am prepared to take the issue very seriously.'"

He pointed out that there were "reservations" concerning certain individuals who do not have appropriate documentation, and said such individuals were subject to clearance from the General Intelligence Department in accordance with a 1985 law.

Muslim Brotherhood Deputy Ahmad Kofahi, complaining the government had not yet reinstated public sector officials dismissed for their political affiliations in accordance with directives from the prime minister, demanded a breakdown of the number of Jordanians fired for political reasons and the number of vacancies that exist in their institutions.

Kofahi, himself dismissed in 1985 from his job as Sharia teacher in Yarmouk University and recently reinstated, called on the government to "adopt a political decision that cancels all previous dismissal orders, defines a specific date for their return to their jobs and pay them their full salaries during the period of their dismissal as 'compensation'."

Kofahi said reinstated civil servants must get their right of promotion and annual salary raises that they missed because of their dismissal.

Massa'deh said the government

had figures to offer immediately on the number of Jordanians dismissed and the available vacancies. He explained that those who were not reinstated "were not turned down because of political reasons... we have no objection to their reappointment... it is only a matter of finding vacancies." The interior minister promised to provide numbers as soon as they are available from security authorities.

Massa'deh, who was responding to questions in the absence of Prime Minister Mudar Badran who left earlier Saturday on a brief visit to Saudi Arabia, said the government was considering requests for setting up students' unions at universities.

"The subject has still not evolved and is very much contingent on contacts among students," Massa'deh told the House. "Once they reach a decision (on setting up unions), we will take a decision."

Official sources told the Jordan Times later that the government has already taken a decision to postpone the approval of students' unions until after the drafting of the proposed national charter.

Culture Minister and acting Higher Education Minister Khalid Karaki, asked by Murad to increase the percentage of enrolment of West Bank students in Jordanian universities from the present three per cent, said universities have already accommodated 300 West Bank students while community colleges have accepted 2,000. The government approved a step on Feb. 8 to

(Continued on page 3)

## Jordan Brotherhood leader denied entry to Egypt

AMMAN (J.T.) — A leading member of Jordan's Muslim Brotherhood was barred entry to Egypt by security officials at Cairo airport earlier this week, according to informed sources.

Mohammad Abdul Rahman Khalifa, the general guide of the Brotherhood, had to spend the night at an airport hotel before returning home the next day, the sources said.

One of the sources said the ban of Khalifa was a result of "previous decisions" taken by the Egyptian government.

Egyptian officials have promised to settle the matter, particularly in view of the close ties between Jordan and Egypt, the source said.

Khalifa was quoted by the AP as saying that security officials welcomed him on arrival at Cairo airport, but as he was walking out, an official "came up to me

and insisted I accompany him because, he said, there was a little problem."

The Islamic leader, who was accompanied by his wife on the trip, said Egyptian officials took his passport and put him in a room at the airport for several hours "without telling me what was wrong," the AP reported.

Eventually, he asked to return in Amman on the first available flight. His passport was returned to him on the plane. Khalifa said the incident took place Wednesday afternoon and he returned to Jordan Thursday morning.

He said he was surprised at "such a strange action, especially because I'm a frequent visitor to Cairo and I visited there recently and had no problems whatsoever."

"But I am sure that Egyptian officials will correct this mistake very soon," Khalifa said.

## Clashes erupt in Beirut despite Aoun's peace call

BEIRUT (Agencies) — Rival rightist forces clashed in east Beirut for the second day Saturday, violating the ceasefire in their month-long war.

Security sources said troops loyal to General Michel Aoun and Lebanese Forces (LF) militiamen exchanged machinegun fire and rocket-propelled grenades in Sin Al Fil neighbourhood.

Sources in Aoun's army said the fighting started after LF snipers wounded two soldiers and killed a civilian in the area. It ceased off after about an hour.

Two militiamen and one soldier were killed in a 30-minute exchange of fire in the same area Friday.

The overnight exchanges, the fiercest since a mediation committee called a ceasefire March 3, came after Aoun, in an unexpected conciliatory move, called for dialogue with LF leader Samir Geagea as well as with the various other Muslim and leftist leaders to end the country's 15-year-old civil war.

Aoun Friday also dropped his outright rejection of an Arab League-brokered peace plan worked out by Lebanese legislators in the Saudi Arabian resort of Taif last fall.

However, the 54-year-old

general proposed that the plan be amended, calling for a "Taif accord number two."

Prime Minister Salim Al Hoss rejected Aoun's proposal to amend the peace accord, declaring: "We adhere in the Taif agreement both in letter and spirit."

Voice of the People radio, which is close to Hoss' government, said Aoun was "manoeuvring and stalling for time."

The Taif accord called for a redistribution of political power in Lebanon doing away with Christian domination and dividing power equally between Muslims and Christians.

The intra-Christian showdown has forced one-fourth of the enclave's one million population to evacuate and seek refuge in safer areas.

Police said the estimated 250,000 evacuees who had fled the Christian enclave due to the clashes "do not seem to trust the ceasefire."

"Some of the evacuees return to the enclave early in the day to check on their damaged property, but leave before dark," the spokesman said.

"They have not even started repairing the damage, most of them

(Continued on page 3)

## Cabinet panel to address drought in south

By Salamah Ne'matt  
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — Government and parliamentary sources said Saturday the Cabinet had formed a ministerial committee to assess the impact of drought that threatens farming in Ma'an Governorate and draw up a plan to alleviate the resulting economic pressure on the population in the southern region.

The committee, headed by Deputy Prime Minister and Interior Minister Salem Massa'deh, "will draw up a policy to ease the pressure expected to affect the south as a result of low rainfall," an independent deputy told the Jordan Times.

He said that rainfall in the major southern towns of Ma'an and Tafleh this winter season was estimated at 30 per cent of the annual average. "This is disastrous for cattle farmers in the south," the deputy said.

A government official confirmed the setting up of the four-member committee and said the government was "systematically working to cover vulnerable areas in the economy, although it has not yet established a comprehensive economic policy."

The official, a Cabinet member, said that apart from the budget, the government "is working on all fronts to respond to major problematic areas and is hardly having a chance to look at the situation in a comprehensive way."

He explained that Prime Minister Mudar Badran was "overwhelmed with work" — receiving officials, citizens and looking into almost every issue and complaint by people so as to keep his doors open to the public. He said deputies were also "keeping the premier busy with their own complaints which they convey on behalf of people."

The official told the Jordan Times that "while public pressure on Parliament is beginning to ease, pressure on the government is increasing every day, sometimes making it difficult for us to do our work."

## U.S., Israel plan operation to free hostages — Tehran paper

NICOSIA (Agencies) — The United States and Israel were planning a military mission to try to rescue Western hostages held in Lebanon, a headline Iranian newspaper said Saturday.

Kayhan International said a recent flurry of reports about the 17 Westerners believed held by pro-Iranian groups in Lebanon was engineered by Washington in a bid to prepare the U.S. public for possible casualties resulting from a rescue operation.

"A rescue operation (would)... end the so-called crisis with the death of at least the American hostages," the newspaper said in an editorial, reported by the Iranian News Agency (IRNA).

"The Bush administration would then be in a position to re-explain its long suffering over the hostage issue, the patience two administrations had shown and the necessity, as in Panama and Libya, to stand up for Americans," the paper said, referring to U.S. military operations against both countries.

"If the U.S. and Israel embark on military adventurism the hostages will (in) fact be a pretext for crippling the Islamic movement," IRNA, received in Nicosia, quoted the anti-Western Kayhan International as saying.

There are eight Americans among the hostages, including journalist Terry Anderson who starts his sixth year in captivity on March 16.

A senior pro-Iranian Muslim cleric, widely believed to have influence over Lebanese hostage-takers, was quoted by a Beirut newspaper on Saturday as saying the reports about the hostages were encouraging.

Sheikh Mohammad Hussein Fadlallah, spiritual mentor of Hizbollah (Party of God), told Al Liwa: "... we imagine that there are encouraging signs... from the concerned parties or those close to them."

The shadowy Revolutionary Justice Organisation, which holds American hostages Joseph James Cicippio and Edward Austin Tracy, criticised Fadlallah earlier this week for urging the release of the Western hostages.

The White House admitted Thursday night that President George Bush had been hoaxed by a telephone caller, with whom he discussed the hostage issue, purporting to be Iranian President Ali Akbar Hashemi Rafsanjani.

### White House telephone hoax

Rafsanjani Friday gloated over the hoax: "America is very much in need of talking to Iran and, praise be to God, is deprived of this... Iran is so important that the biggest bully on Earth tries to contact its officials by telephone."

The Iranian president and newspapers, including the Tehran Times which is close to Rafsanjani, had earlier indicated that an end to the hostage crisis may be in sight.

White House spokesman Martin Fitzwater said Rafsanjani's boasting raised new questions about Tehran's intentions. "One day we hear moderate points of view (from Iran), the next day it's antagonistic ones," he said.

Fitzwater said the president accepted the bogus telephone even though the White House suspected the caller was an impostor.

The spokesman explained that Bush was willing to take the call "on the off chance" that it might

be genuine and could lead to a break in the hostage case.

Although the CBS News report of the incident, which was confirmed by the White House on March 8, was embarrassing, Fitzwater said the president thinks it is probably useful to have the American people know that he's willing to follow up on these kinds of things.

"While box phone calls are always a little embarrassing and difficult to deal with, nevertheless, we are willing to make the effort and go the extra step," he said.

"I think that's important to the hostage families to know that President Bush's policy is firm, but he is personally committed to follow up every opportunity to get the release of the hostages," the spokesman emphasised.

Fitzwater said he did not know of any other box calls involving the president, but he noted that box calls frequently come into the White House. "They come in spurts: I had a flurry of perhaps a half dozen" in January and February, he told reporters.

"All these kinds of phone calls are checked out very carefully," he said. "While we could not go into detail, he said, 'Suffice to say, we did check this out from a number of angles, including diplomatic'."

Fitzwater said he did not think the incident would have an impact "one way or another" on efforts to secure the hostages' release.

### Swiss doubt about threats on hostages

In a separate development, Swiss authorities and the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) Saturday expressed doubt about the authenticity of a threat from a hitherto unknown group to kill one of two

Swiss hostages held in Lebanon unless two Lebanese jailed in Switzerland and France were freed.

Statements from the Foreign Ministry and the ICRC said officials were meeting to discuss the situation and were pursuing contacts in the Middle East, but there was no evidence to link hostages Emmanuel Christen and Elio Erriguez with the group calling itself the Action Group for the Release of Hariri.

Erriguez, 23, and Christen, 33, were kidnapped last Oct. 6 outside the ICRC's orthopedic centre in Sidon where they helped fit artificial limbs for victims of Lebanon's long conflict.

The threat was made in an anonymous phone call late Friday to a Western news agency in Nicosia, Cyprus. There was no way to check the identity or the whereabouts of the caller.

"We demand the release of mjaheed (holy warrior) Mohammad Hariri from Swiss prison, and the release of mjaheed Anis Naccache," the caller said, speaking in a Lebanese accent.

"Unless our demands are met by Monday, March 12, we will execute one of the Swiss hostages," he said, hanging up when asked who he was and where he was calling from.

Mohammad Hariri was jailed for life in Switzerland in February 1989 for hijacking an Air Afrique jetliner in 1987 and killing a French passenger after the aircraft landed in Geneva.

Naccache is a Lebanese who led an Iranian-directed team that bungled a 1980 bid to assassinate Iranian exile leader Shahpour Bakhtiar in Paris. He is serving a life sentence.

Friday's telephone call was the first in which anyone had linked both Naccache and Hariri's freedom as conditions for releasing hostages.

## Main Afghan airbase stays shut four days after failed coup attempt

KABUL (Agencies) — Afghanistan's main airbase of Bagram, north of the capital Kabul, remained closed Saturday, four days after a failed coup attempt against President Najibullah, government sources said.

Rebel military planes flew throughout Tuesday and Wednesday from Bagram to bomb the presidential palace and other military installations in Kabul before the government said loyal troops captured the base.

Bagram had more than 60 military planes when the coup led by Defence Minister Colonel-General Shahinawaz Tanai was launched Tuesday.

Tanai, a hardline Marxist opposed to compromise with Muslim guerrillas fighting the government, was sacked after the coup attempt and was still at large.

He had been at odds with Najibullah over attempts to moderate the government's Marxist philosophy and to appease the western-backed rebels.

The Afghan government has accused Tanai of conspiring with Gulbudin Hekmatyar, the most radical of the Afghan guerrilla leaders battling the Soviet-supported Kabul government.

Government sources said only about five planes staged the air raids during the coup attempt.

Some were reported to have been forced to fly, but they did not bomb and simply landed at other airports, the sources said.

Pilots loyal to Najibullah bombed Bagram runways making it difficult for rebel pilots to take off, the sources said.

This explains why the number of rebel planes was limited. Diplomatic sources said at least five MIG-21 and Sukhoi-22 Soviet-built planes took part in the bombing.

Those sources however, said it was possible some planes took turns with those at Bagram so the total number of rebel aircraft

over the capital did not exceed the estimated number.

Najibullah has purged his ruling party after the most serious attempts yet to overthrow the administration.

He told a news conference Thursday the coup attempt was crushed and pledged to pursue "national reconciliation" with Mujahideen guerrillas who have waged civil war for 11 years.

He said the politburo of his People's Democratic Party of Afghanistan was "united in its resolution to continue its struggle to the end."

Najibullah said 25 civilians were killed and 150 were wounded. He declined to detail casualties among loyalist troops.

Some rebel pilots may have flown to northern air strips, he said, adding: "We are looking for them."

By Saturday Afghan authorities were still not prepared to show the Bagram base to foreign journalists.

The government Friday allowed the journalists to see damage to the presidential palace as well as to the Defence Ministry, Tanai's former power base.

Najibullah has set up a special tribunal for an early trial of Tanai and other coup plotters, the official Bakhtar News Agency said Saturday.

### Najibullah was working when coup began

Najibullah had just finished lunch when bomb came metres from toppling his government.

Shortly after 1 p.m. Tuesday, several bombs rocked the presidential palace, killing four soldiers from the elite Presidential Guard. One cluster of three small bombs gouged out two craters and gutted an administrative office four metres from where Najibullah was working.

The force of the blast cracked the walls of Najibullah's office, declining revenues and congress members with instructions to demand more subsidies, more free public services and no new taxes or duties.

The local assemblies, at meetings across the country last month, told their delegates to reject tax reform measures and a health insurance scheme which would have required Libyans to contribute to health costs for the first time since oil made the country rich.

At the same time, the congress members accused themselves and those in charge of the local assemblies of "passing arbitrary resolutions which have increased the burden on the popular committees."

The committees are the country's executive branch. This self-criticism, in a policy statement entitled "the people's revolution against itself," bore the clear imprint of Qadhafi's recent speeches critical of the course his revolution has taken.

On Wednesday, he described the position of the local assemblies on taxes as ridiculous and evidence of inconceivable ignorance.

Three secretaries (ministers) resigned during the congress over the public spending issue and in protest at what they said was widespread corruption and favouritism in the civil service.

Congress Secretary (speaker) Mufthah Al Usta Omar ruled that only the local assemblies, which will hold an emergency session on March 17, can decide whether the ministers should stay or go.

## People's congress elects Qadhafi as supreme leader

TRIPOLI (R) — Libya's people's parliament has closed after an acrimonious row between the executive and deputies over financing the welfare state, with neither side the clear winner.

However, the decision by the General People's Congress to elevate revolutionary leader Muammar Qadhafi to the status of supreme leader has given him the authority to overrule any decision he disagreed with.

Political observers said it was unclear exactly what powers Qadhafi had been imbued with.

The eight-day meeting of the congress, which ended Friday night, passed a law saying Qadhafi's role in the 1969 revolution gave him a legitimacy from which all the country's institutions derived their authority.

"So instructions issued by the leader of the great revolution, brother Colonel Muammar Qadhafi, are binding and it is a duty to carry them out," a declaration of revolutionary legitimacy said.

An earlier version said Qadhafi's directives had the force of laws passed by the Basic People's Congress, the local assemblies which theoretically ruled the country, but this was diluted by a congress committee, members said.

Qadhafi's new status was meant to clear up ambiguities over his role after he repeatedly threatened to withdraw from the political arena, leaving the system to run itself.

Neither side emerged victorious from the conflict between an executive trying to deal with

blown apart."

"Whoever did it wasn't a good Muslim," one man shouted from a crowd that had gathered around Malleem.

More bombs fell throughout the afternoon. From his headquarters at the Ministry of Defence, Tanai sneaked to an air-base north of the city.

The early hours of the coup appeared to favour the munitiers. Bomb at Kabul Radio forced officials to switch broadcasting locations. Parliamentarian and alleged coup participant Saleh Mohammad Zary went to Radio Kabul to announce that Tanai's forces had won. He was arrested with the statement in his pocket, a government source said. Bakhtar reported Friday that he had been purged of his party posts.

Withering fire from loyalist tanks and rockets destroyed the coup headquarters at the Defence Ministry, located in the pastel Darulaman Palace, once the royal residence.

Loyalist tanks and soldiers with hand-held rockets surrounded the building during a 24-hour assault. On Friday, the building was a shell. Holes gaped in the facade.

Crossfire also destroyed the nearby Tajbain Palace. Government troops also destroyed the airbase to which Tanai had fled, devastating it with Soviet-made rockets.

Then the arrests began. Five members of the politburo, including Tanai, were purged from their posts. Some escaped and some had disappeared. Two Central Committee members also were removed.

Squads of security forces entered some government housing projects and arrested scores of alleged participants, government sources said.

One trial of several individuals began Thursday. A special tribunal set up by Najibullah will handle the case.

Rebel bombing began shortly after 12.30 p.m. as the city settled down to lunch. The first bombs hit the city centre, near two high schools, which had been closed due to lack of funds for education and heating fuel.

As many as five jets at a time sped over the capital. One dropped a 45-kilogramme bomb near the serpentine streets of the grain bazaar.

"I was sitting here fixing watches when houses across the street just collapsed. Everybody started screaming and running. Glass flew everywhere," said Haji Malleem, a watch-maker. "I saw about 15 people

agencies Friday to combat a U.S. "campaign of lies" regarding the plant.

"The Rabta plant in Great Janahiriya (Libya) is a plant for the production of medicines and medical equipment," the general secretary of JANA was quoted as saying in a letter to directors of the Federation of Arab News Agencies and the agencies of the Arab Maghreb Union and the Arab News Federation.

"The U.S. administration... leads a campaign of lies and false accusations from which it aims to mislead the world public opinion claiming that this cultural medical plant is a plant for chemical weapons," said the JANA director, who was not identified.

JANA said its director called on the Arab agencies to join in "Arab solidarity in the face of the biased informational media campaign and to foil the whole U.S. aggressive scheme."

White House Spokesman Martin Fitzwater said "we don't rule out" a military strike at the plant. A West German opposition politician, Norbert Gansel, said Thursday that his country also had indications the plant had begun making chemical weapons.

Also Friday, two leaders of Italy's small Liberal Party called on their government to urge the European Community (EC) to seek frequent inspections of the Rabta plant to ensure it was not producing chemical weapons.

The statement was issued by Renato Altissimo, secretary of the party, and Antonio Patelli, another leader.

The congress reiterated previous Libyan statements that the country supports international inspection to see if chemical weapons are being produced provided that such controls are universally applied.

Last year, Qadhafi's government offered to open the plant to international inspection provided the United States also let its facilities be inspected. Qadhafi has insisted that the plant was built to produce medicines.

JANA appealed to Arab news

ROME (AP) — The Libyan legislature, denouncing chemical weapons, said the Libyan people will defend a facility that the United States says is producing poison gas, the official Libyan News Agency (JANA) reported Saturday.

The agency, in a dispatch monitored in Rome, said the General People's Congress declared that the Libyan people are "against all types of weapons of mass destruction" including "nuclear, bacteriological and chemical" ones.

The White House has charged that the plant at Rabta, 100 kilometres southwest of Tripoli, was apparently producing poison gas. Other U.S. officials said the plant was making some mustard gas and nerve agents.

Libya's people will "stand as a shield to protect" the Rabta pharmaceutical factory, JANA quoted the congress as declaring.

Libyans made similar vows early last year following the first round of U.S. accusations that the facility was gearing up to produce chemical weapons.

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## U.S. attacks Syrian leader

WASHINGTON (AP) — The U.S. State Department has said that Syrian President Hafez Assad, in denouncing democratic change in Eastern Europe and calling for an endless war against Israel, "is out of step with the enormously promising changes unfolding around the world."

Margaret Tutwiler, the department's spokeswoman, said the people of the Middle East, including the people of Syria, have "no need for more bellicose rhetoric."

Rather, she said, they need "real statesmanship and commitment to the practical steps needed to bring about a Palestinian-Israeli dialogue leading to a comprehensive peace settlement."

Assad, addressing a youth rally in Damascus Thursday, called for an unceasing holy war against Israel and said the changes

sweeping Eastern Europe are a boon to the Jewish state.

Assad denounced the recent wave of Soviet Jewish emigration to Israel, saying migrating Jews would force Palestinians from their homeland.

"Let us now perceive that Israel was the first beneficiary, among all nations of the world, of the international changes that have taken place," Assad said.

He said the Jihad, or holy war, against Israel "should be as long as time."

Ms. Tutwiler said: "President Assad's criticism is 'out of step with the enormously promising changes unfolding around the world as well as with the serious effort to move toward peace in the Middle East.'"

"President Assad ought to be committing himself to peace, not war," she said.

## Newsman sentenced to death in Iraq on spying charges

LONDON (AP) — A London-based journalist has been sentenced to death in Iraq on spying charges and a British nurse has been jailed for 15 years for allegedly helping him, the Foreign Office said Saturday.

An Iraqi who was in contact with journalist Farzad Bazoft in Baghdad was given a 10 year sentence for communicating government secrets to a foreigner, it said.

Bazoft, a 31-year-old stateless Iranian exile who travels with British documents and works for London's weekly Observer newspaper, was arrested in September while investigating reports of an explosion at an Iraqi military

plant. Nurse Daphne Parish, 52, was accused of helping him by driving him to the plant.

Bazoft and Mrs. Parish went on trial Thursday, charged with committing hostile acts against Iraq. The Iraqi, identified only as Rahim, was tried with them.

The revolutionary court proceedings, which were not open to the public, adjourned after five hours.

The Foreign Office said a British diplomat was in court Saturday to hear the sentences passed and immediately telephoned the outcome to London.

Under Iraqi law, no appeal is allowed.

## Despite challenges, Yemenis want union

MANAMA, Bahrain (AP) — North Yemeni President Ali Abdullah Saleh Saturday told the Kuwaiti newspaper Al Anbas that despite challenges "there is a strong Yemeni will" for union of North and South Yemen.

He was referring to merger plans, set for Nov. 30, which have brought demands of Islam and Marxism face to face.

Leaders of the two countries appear undaunted however. North Yemen is an Arab country of 9.2 million devout Muslims of whom an estimated 30 per cent could be considered fundamentalist.

South Yemen is the Arab World's only Marxist state.

Saleh and South Yemeni leader Ali Salem Al Beidh, the secretary-general of the ruling Yemeni Socialist Party, have been meeting for three days amid hints that the two leaders were seeking ways of speeding up the unity process.

After two days of cloistered talks in the North Yemen resort of Taiz, the two leaders Saturday moved to South Yemen's capital, Aden, in what one newspaper editor called "a surprise political demonstration of support from the top for unity."

The Islamic fundamentalists in North Yemen, commonly referred to as the "religious current," have come out in strong protest against the draft constitution of the unified state because it does not specify the Islamic religion as the "sole" source of legislation.

The draft unified constitution only refers to Islam being the principal source for legislation.

Another article says "it is not permissible to resort to inhuman means in implementing punishments and it is not permissible to exact laws that permit it."

The fundamentalists have been clamouring for explanation as to whether this negates the Islamic Sharia's Law of cutting of hands of thieves.

Recorded tapes of fiery speeches by Sheikh Abdul Meguid Al Zindani, are in wide circulation in North Yemen at present.

This Islamic force in North Yemen contrasts sharply with policies in South Yemen which, once it gained independence from Britain in 1967, forged close links with the Soviet Union and adopted Marxism as a policy and a way of life.

While South Yemen pays lip service to Islam, it has become a non-religious society. Aden women do not have to wear veils, there is no segregation of men and women, and the Islamic injunction that a man may have up to four wives is curtailed by a law which, provides for a second wife only in case of sterility or terminal illness.

So, thousands of South Yemeni women took to the streets on woman's day in Aden clamouring for guarantees that unity will not mean annulment of their civil status law.

The women's federation President Aida Ali Saeed said the unified constitution "must clearly acknowledge equality between man and woman." She denounced "the conspiracies by forces of darkness and reaction that are enemies of the woman."

## JORDAN TIMES DAILY GUIDE AND CALENDAR

JORDAN TELEVISION	
Tel: 73111-19	
PROGRAMME ONE	
15:30	Koran
15:40	Programme review
15:45	Children programme
17:10	News in Arabic
18:05	Local programme
18:20	Cultural programme
19:05	Local programme
19:50	Programme review
20:05	News in Arabic
20:30	Arabic series
21:20	Programme review
21:30	Local programme
22:00	Variety programme
22:05	News summary in Arabic
PROGRAMME TWO	
19:00	Tel. Pere Tel. Filis
19:10	L'ecole de l'ans
19:20	News in French
19:35	Ajourd'hui en France
19:40	News in Hebrew
19:45	Variety programme
20:00	News in Arabic
20:10	Who's the Boss?
21:10	Red Dynasty
22:00	News in English
22:20	"The Heat of the Day"
PRAYER TIMES	
05:30	Fajr
06:30	(Sunrise) Duha
CHURCHES	
11:46	Dinur
15:07	Asr
17:44	Maghreb
19:00	Isha
WEATHER	
Bulletin supplied by the Department of Meteorology.	

A drop in temperature will occur and clouds will increase gradually with expected thunder showers. Winds will be southerly moderate. In Aqaba, winds will be southerly fresh and sea calm.	
Amman	Mia./max. temp. 8/16
Aqaba	12/24
Jerusalem	6/18
Jordan Valley	14/25
Yesterday's high temperatures: Amman 21, Aqaba 26. Humidity readings: Amman 27 per cent. Aqaba 20 per cent.	
<b>USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS</b>	
<b>NIGHT DUTY</b>	
AMMAN:	
Dr. Tawfiq Qabla	623029
Dr. Ima Haddad	877007
Dr. Amjad Nawras	781806
Dr. Suhail Tamoush	898903
First pharmacy	661912
Petrol pumps	778336
Al Azzam pharmacy	677055
Nairookh pharmacy	625672
Al Salem pharmacy	636730
Yacoub pharmacy	644945
Sharafisi pharmacy	
	637660
IBRAHIM:	
Dr. Mohammad Al Shara'a	(—)
Al Shara'a pharmacy	(985238)
ZARQA:	
Dr. Moss Odeh	(—)
Khalifeh pharmacy	785417
<b>EMERGENCIES</b>	
Civil Defence Department	661111
Civil Defence Immediate	630341
Ramco	630454
Civil Defence Emergency	630454
Rescue Police	192, 621111, 637777
Fire Brigade	891228
Blood Bank	775121
Highway Police	843400
Traffic Police	696390
Public Security Department	690002
Hotel Complaints	628803
Price Complaints	561178
Water and Sewerage	
Complaints	897465
Amman Municipality	
Complaints	787111
Traffic Police Information	
(directory assistance)	123111
Overseas Calls	0102023
Central Amman Telephone	
Repairs	623101
Abtall Telephone Repairs	661107

## Arar, Mahjoub discuss IPU

CAIRO (Petra) — Speaker of the Lower House of Parliament Sleiman Arar met with his Egyptian counterpart Rifaat Al Mahjoub on matters related to the International Parliamentary Union (IPU) meeting due to open in Cyprus next month.

They also discussed sending Arab delegations to foreign countries including Eastern Europe to discuss the Soviet Jewish immigration to Palestine. The idea of sending such delegations was discussed earlier by the leaders of the four-member Arab Cooperation Council (ACC) countries at their meeting in Amman. Mahjoub had been entrusted with

leading the Arab delegation on these visits.

Arar attended the opening of the African Parliamentary Union's executive committee meeting which convened to discuss the Soviet Jewish emigration and other regional issues including Lebanon.

Arar, who is accompanied by a four-member delegation was due to visit the city of Alexandria Sunday for meetings with local government officials and prominent public figures.

In a statement after his meetings in Cairo, Arar said he extended an invitation to Mahjoub to visit Jordan in the summer.

## 'Al Quds,' though 'illegal,' treated as foreign daily

AMMAN (J.T.) — A newspaper published and distributed in Jordan in violation of press and publications laws was being treated as a foreign newspaper and was subject to censorship, Minister of Information Ibrahim Izzedine said Saturday.

Responding to a call by Amman Deputy Fares Nabulsi to ban the "Al Quds" weekly newspaper, Izzedine said that although it was not licensed in accordance with the press and publications laws, "the decision to print it in Jordan was taken upon oral instructions issued by the Prime Minister to the information minister in 1987."

The paper, published by a Palestinian breakaway group opposed to Palestine Liberation Organisation Chairman Yasser Arafat, is perceived by many readers here as an anti-Arafat propaganda tool.

There was no indication in the minister's response that he will ban the newspaper.

Attallah Attallah, a PLO leader

who split from the mainstream PLO movement during fighting between factions loyal to Arafat and those opposed to his policies, is known to have financed the newspaper when it started publication in 1987, soon after he moved his base to Amman.

Attallah, better known by his nom de guerre "Abu Zaim," held several rallies in Amman aimed at undermining support for the PLO chairman in the Kingdom. He moved to Jordan soon after the Kingdom's decision in 1986 to end coordination with the PLO on a peaceful strategy to settle the Middle East problem following the Feb. 11, 1985 agreement.

Attallah's movement in Jordan, now restricted due to improved Jordanian-PLO ties, was not publicly supported by the government.

However, according to Saturday's statement by the minister, then Prime Minister Zaid Rifai issued the order to allow the publication and distribution of Al Quds in Jordan.

## Crown Prince visits south, briefed on region's needs

KARAK (J.T.) — His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, the Regent, Saturday paid a surprise visit to Karak governorate where he inspected Karak hospital and visited students from Mu'ta University who were receiving treatment after a road accident Friday evening.

The Regent later visited the first instance court in Karak, the departments of social development and the Jordan cooperative organisation and was briefed on their activities.

Officials discussed with the Prince the governorate's needs, especially for animal feed for local stock breeders in light of the

drought that hit the country.

The Regent urged concerned authorities to double the amount of animal feed distributed by the concerned ministries and called for providing all possible facilities to farmers to help them maintain their business.

Prince Hassan later called at a girls' school in the city and discussed methods of developing the education system.

Secretary-General of the Ministry of Interior Salameh Hammad accompanied Prince Hassan on his tour of Karak Governorate.

The government has recently set up a ministerial committee led

by Interior Minister Salem Masadeh to deal with the adverse results of poor rainfall in the governorates of Karak, Tafleeh and Ma'an.

This season's shortage of rain in these areas has caused hardships for local residents.

The Crown Prince also visited Maan governorate where he inspected work at some government institutions and departments. Prince Hassan was briefed on procedures in these departments and institutions. Prince Hassan also visited Tafleeh governorate and called at Tafleeh Chamber of Commerce.

## Activist makes triumphant return to electricity union

By Nermeen Marad  
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — After 17 years of struggle to reinstate himself as member of the Electricity Workers' Association, Walid Khayatt did not only regain his membership; he also won the highest number of votes in the association's elections held Friday, and is expected to be named the president of the association soon.

Khayatt ran as head of the "Salvation Bloc" against incumbent president of the association Samir Qardan, who led the "Labour Unionist Bloc," and Mohammad Hussein Oudeh, head of the "Reform Bloc."

The Salvation Bloc was able to secure 10 of the 11 seats of the executive committee of the association. Qardan, who also holds the position of secretary-general of the Federation of Jordanian Labour Unions, won the 11th seat on the committee.

The Salvation Bloc stood out by its fielding of 15 candidates for the 11-seat executive committee "allowing for even more democracy and more freedom of choice," Khayatt told the Jordan Times in an interview Saturday.

A large number of workers through the association's headquarters in downtown Amman and shouted slogans in support of Khayatt, who promised that he would seek to address their grievances.

Khayatt was head of the association from 1962 to 1972 when a decision by the martial law Economic Security Committee disbanded all executive committees of the 17 different labour unions in the Kingdom.

"From that time and until Jordan initiated its democratic drive last year, the labour associations

had suffered from continued interference by security departments and I was the victim of one of these interferences," Khayatt said.

Two other electricity workers' unionists were reinstated as members of the association during a general committee meeting held on Feb. 3, 1989, which was attended by 1,600 of the 2,000 members of the association.

In that meeting the workers stressed the need to "democratise" their own union and the election of a new leadership.

They decided to adopt several steps towards reaching their goals and formed a 121-member "salvation committee" entrusted with the duty of forming a "united unionist front which would work on saving the association," Khayatt said.

The general committee meeting also decided to reject the association's 1989 fiscal budget and to form a seven-member committee to reevaluate the records of the association and present a report to an extraordinary meeting of the general committee within a month.

"As for dealing with the demands of the workers the general committee meeting decided to allocate this task to the new association's executive committee after its election," Khayatt said.

"These decisions do not only mean the return of dismissed unionists but is a real victory for the democratic process which started in Jordan last year," Khayatt said.

Khayatt added that the association will endeavour to "reform all irregularities which dominated the labour movement during the absence of democracy." He did not elaborate what the "irregularities" were.

## Government

(Continued from page 1)

increase to five per cent the percentage of acceptance in community colleges.

"The question of increasing the ratio is something that will have to wait until the return of the higher education minister," Karaki said.

Earlier Saturday, House committee appointed to look into petitions contesting the election of deputies in three constituencies, turned down two requests and accepted the withdrawal of a

third complaint.

The first committee rejected a petition against Deputy Nawaf Khawaldeh of Mafrqa Constituency presented by Abdullah Akhn Erseidat. The same committee rejected a petition by Mohammad Salameh Abu Khorma contesting the election of all Zarqa deputies.

The second committee turned down a petition by Nasr Hammad contesting the election of Deputy Mohammad Fares Tarawneh of Karak Governorate.

## Clashes

(Continued from page 1)

do not have enough money to finance repair works," the spokesman added.

A mediation committee maintained separate meetings with Aoun and Geagea in an effort to consolidate the ceasefire and form a "national authority" grouping representatives of the warring factions and independent figures to work out a political settlement to the intra-Christian conflict.

Al Wahar reported major differences between Aoun and Geagea on proposed members of the authority.

The U.S. State Department said Friday it was encouraged by the decision of Aoun to abandon warfare for dialogue and called on him to submit to the authority of the country's government.

"We hope that Gen. Aoun is serious about abandoning violence. The Lebanese people have suffered enough," said Margaret Tutwiler, the department's spokeswoman.

## WHAT'S GOING ON

The following listings are compiled from monthly bulletins and the daily Arabic press. Readers are advised to verify the listed time and place with the concerned institutions.

### EXHIBITIONS

- ★ Exhibition by plastic artists Arif Al Hamed and Ibrahim Al Nabehneh at the Housing Bank Complex.
- ★ Art exhibition by seven Iraqi artists at Abdul Hameed Shoman Foundation (10 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.)
- ★ Exhibition of ceramics by Iraqi artist Siham Al Sawadi at hotel Jordan Inter-Continental.
- ★ Exhibition of paintings by Jordanian artist Mohammad Issa at the Royal Cultural Centre.

### SEMINAR

- ★ Seminar, in Arabic, entitled "Woman and Politics" at Abdul Hameed Shoman Foundation - 6:00 p.m.

### FILM

- ★ Feature film entitled "Al About Eve" at the American Centre - 7:00 p.m.

## Financial markets meeting calls for Arab integration

AMMAN (Petra) — A pan-Arab meeting which opened in Amman Saturday heard urgent calls on Arab governments to take speedy action towards economic and financial integration in view of the ongoing moves around the world to create economic groupings and the expected impact of a 1992 united Europe on the Arab World.

The opening session of the three-day meeting by the Arab Financial Markets Federation (AFMF) was attended by delegates from eight Arab states and specialised organisations. The meeting will discuss various issues pertaining to the work of financial markets in the Arab World and financial, economic and monetary integration.

Addressing the opening session, Finance Minister Basel Jaradat said Arab economic integration had become a must and Arab governments should "direct their countries' resources towards serving the Arab Nation as a whole."

The minister called on Arab governments to facilitate the flow of Arab capital and to coordinate economic planning policies that can benefit joint Arab projects.

"Europe's aspirations for unity in 1992 and the impact of such unity on the Arab World in terms of trade and investments should

serve as an incentive for the Arabs to take speedy action to achieve economic, and financial integration," the minister said.

Referring to the situation in Jordan, the minister said the private sector here was being offered a leading role in the Kingdom's free-enterprise open market. "Jordan is now involved in implementing an integrated programme designed to stimulate the economic sector by encouraging investments and exports," Jaradat said.

This programme, he said, will offer good chances to investors from Jordan and other Arab countries, especially with the devalued Jordanian dinar, the Jordanian income tax system, exemptions offered to investors from Arab states and other privileges.

"Arab investors are given privileges and incentives as well as tax exemptions on equal footing with Jordanians and they are allowed to transfer profits made from their business in Jordan," the minister pointed out.

AFMF Secretary-General Safak Rukeibi echoed Jaradat's call on Arab countries to take measures to offset negative impacts caused by a united Europe in 1992. "The coming unity in Europe is bound to have an effect on Arab trade and financial in-

vestments," he said. "Therefore Arab states should study means of benefiting from Arab funds which should be deposited in the Arab World and used to finance Arab projects," Rukeibi added.

"The 1990s carry with them a serious economic challenge for the Arab World in the light of a tendency by other nations to set up economic groupings with a greater economic and trade bargaining power," Rukeibi warned.

He said the AFMF, which was established at the start of the 1980s, did not rise to expectations and its achievements were well below the aspired goals and objectives largely due to economic difficulties in the Arab World. Nevertheless, he said, the federation is going ahead with plans for development and for greater cooperation with Arab countries to help achieve economic integration.

Subjects on the agenda include the prospect of setting up a data system that can benefit all Arab financial markets and cooperation between the federation and the Arab Monetary Fund (AMF).

Taking part in the meetings are delegates from Jordan, Egypt, Kuwait, Sudan, Bahrain, Morocco, Oman, and Tunisia in addition to the AMF and several financial institutions of the Arab World.

## Communists oppose national pact but will accept role in drafting it

By Salameh Ne'matt

Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — Jordan Communist Party said Saturday it opposed the idea of a national charter to organise political parties in the Kingdom, but a member of the party said the Communists would accept an invitation to join the drafting commission if the political pact was launched anyway.

Deputy Issa Mdanat, a senior member of the Communist Party, said the Jordan Communist Party (JCP) has opposed the drafting of a national charter but "will have no choice but to join the commission if it was called, so that we can influence the outcome."

Mdanat and JCP Secretary-General Yacoub Zayadine met last week with His Majesty King Hussein's Political Advisor Adnan Abu Odeh during which they expressed their opposition to the proposed charter.

Mdanat told the Jordan Times the meeting was attended by Bassam Haddadin of the People's Democratic Party (an offshoot of the Democratic Front), Azmi Khawaja of the Democratic Labour Party (an offshoot of the Popular Front), and Yusef Sammour and Hassan Khreis of a still unannounced party reportedly affiliated with Fatch.

Mdanat, who occupies one of Karak's two Christian seats, said despite earlier opposition by Muslim Brotherhood members to the government's decision to lift the ban on the Communist Party, "the Brotherhood appears to have adjusted its position."

He said last week's statement by the Brotherhood on the proposed national charter "indicated they have backed out of their demand to ban our party."

The deputy said he told Abu Odeh that the Communist Party sees the charter as a way to continue the government's domination of political life, in the country, despite assurances to the contrary.

Commenting on the Muslim Brotherhood's position that the charter should be based on Islam as the state's religion, Mdanat said the movement "will not be able to get its way." He did not elaborate.

Mdanat, a member of the House's Public Freedoms Committee, said a delegation representing his committee would soon meet with Prime Minister Mdar Badran "to seek the release of the remaining 35 political prisoners."

He said that the committee would seek the release of those "who may have committed violence but did not cause death or serious injury in the process."

Nearly 50 relatives of political prisoners Saturday protested outside the Parliament building gate to demand the release of prisoners. They distributed pamphlets demanding their release and warning that if not released, the prisoners may resort to staging some form of protest.

A deputy interpreted their statement as "a warning that they may go on a hunger strike or another form of protest."

Mdanat assails U.S.  
In a lecture he delivered Friday evening, Mdanat criticised the United States' continued pressure

on the Soviet Union to open a direct air route between Moscow and the occupied Palestinian land to transport Soviet Jewish immigrants.

Mdanat also criticised what he described as Washington's policy of facilitating the influx of Jews into Palestine and their settlement in the occupied West Bank and Gaza.

In the lecture, delivered at the Alumni club of Beirut Arab University, Mdanat warned of the dangers inherent in the Jewish immigration into Palestine and said that it would undermine prospects for peace in the Middle East.

"The influx of Soviet Jews into Palestine constitutes a grave danger not only to the Palestinian and Jordanian peoples but also to the whole Arab Nation," Mdanat said. The Karak deputy said that the continued immigration was bound to obstruct the implementation of all United Nations resolutions that call for the return of all Palestinian refugees to their homeland and encourage extremist Zionist groups to pursue the eviction of the Palestinians from their lands. Mdanat called on Arab countries to extend material and political support for Palestinian uprising, which he described as the "front defence line" for Jordan and the rest of the Arab World.

He said the uprising should be fuelled and encouraged so as to thwart all Israel's plans aimed at diverting world attention from the real developments in the Israeli-held Arab territories.

Mdanat also called for enhancing national unity in Jordan and urged Arab states to show solidarity and take collective action in the face of the common dangers.

## Cooperative to buy lamb for breeding

By Sana Abu Hawaj

Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — The Jordan Cooperative Organisation (JCO) has announced plans to buy 2,500 healthy lambs with weights ranging between 15-20 kilogramme each for the purpose of fattening and resale in the local market. JCO Director-General Mriweid Tal said that JCO also wants to train technical staff at five of its stations on sheep raising. The capacity of each station is 3,600 sheep, but during the training course, only 500 sheep will be used at each station. Normally, the course at each station lasts six months. The five stations with full capacity raise about 36,000 sheep annually. The JCO runs two courses a year, according to Tal.

The training course will last for 75 days, after which every sheep is expected to weigh 45 kilogrammes. At the end of the course, the sheep will be sold on the market, according to Tal.

"So far, the organisation has not received tempting offers from shepherds or other cooperating associations," Ghazi Kan'an, director of the project, told the Jordan Times. "In this case, the organisation is going to form committees or groups and send them to the countryside in order to buy the sheep directly from the farmers."

Minister of Agriculture Suleiman Arabiat recently allowed the export of sheep to other countries, especially to Gulf states. But Kan'an pointed out that for the time being his organisation will only provide sheep for the local market.

## Two shot dead

(Continued from page 1)

demonstrations.

Camp residents and U.N. officials identified the victims as Mahmud Fawzi Abu Khalife, 21, and Safian Mohammad Abdullah Khalil, 25. They said at least two other Palestinians were wounded, one critically.

## Meeting to review produce marketing strategy

AMMAN (Petra) — Jordan's marketing strategy for its vegetables and fruits will be reviewed at a two-day meeting due to open here Sunday with the participation of officials and economic and agricultural experts.

The meeting, which is being organised by the Agricultural Marketing Organisation (AMO) in cooperation with the United States Agency for International Development (USAID), is expected to review four detailed studies on marketing Jordanian crops.

The agenda includes a general review of wholesale market places, the effect of having a fixed price index for crops and an evaluation of various agricultural cropping patterns used in the country.

Experts and officials participating in the meeting represent departments concerned with agriculture, economy and marketing.

## NATIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

### UAE minister arrives

AMMAN (Petra) — Minister of Electricity and Water Resources in the United Arab Emirates (UAE) Hamid Ben Nasser arrived in Amman Saturday on a three-day visit to Jordan. He will hold talks with Minister of Energy and Mineral Resources Thabet Al Taher and other officials on cooperation between Jordan and the UAE in electric power industry.

### Faqir leaves for Libya

AMMAN (Petra) — Minister of Aqwaq and Islamic Affairs Ali Al Faqr left Saturday for Libya at the head of a delegation from his ministry at the invitation of the International Islamic Daawa Society. Ministry of Aqwaq sources said that Faqr will sign an agreement on cooperation between the Ministry of Aqwaq and the Libyan society to boost bilateral cooperation in propagating Islam and in religious guidance and preaching. The agreement, they said, will also provide for cooperation in setting up Sharia (Islamic law) colleges for training religious leaders, and will exchange information and publications and hold joint conferences and seminars on religious affairs.

### Human rights group opens course

TUNIS (J.T.) — The Arab Human Rights Institute Monday will open a training course here entitled "Human Rights — How to Protect Them." Experience and experiments of various human rights organisations, including Amnesty International, will be reviewed by the participants. Lecturers from Jordan will participate in the week-long course.

### Dughmi leaves for Ghana

AMMAN (Petra) — Minister of Municipal and Rural Affairs and the Environment Abdul Karim Al Dughmi left Amman for Ghana Saturday to take part in the 10th conference of the Afro-Asian Organisation which will open Sunday. The week-long conference will discuss subjects included in a report by the organisation's technical committee on the organisation's activities over the past years and a plan for the next three years. The committee groups Jordan, Egypt, India and Ethiopia.

### Jordan displays industrial goods

CAIRO (Petra) — Jordan is displaying samples of its industrial products at an international trade exhibition which opened in Cairo Saturday. A total of 130 Jordanian companies and factories are taking part in the exhibition in which 30 other countries are participating. Jordan's Ambassador to Egypt Nabih Al Nimer said samples of food stuff, clothing, plastics, phosphate, potash, pharmaceuticals, furniture, paper, carpet and other products are being displayed at the exhibition, which was opened by Egyptian Prime Minister Atef Sidki. Nimer said 1,200 companies from Arab and foreign countries were exhibiting samples of their products and Jordanian businessmen were expected to conclude several important contracts to sell their products.

### Jordanian displays art

IRBID (J.T.) — A painting exhibition by Jordanian artist Mohammad Al Abidi opened at Yarmouk University Saturday. On display are 27 paintings depicting the environment and cultural life in the country. Several university officials were present at the opening of the five-day exhibition.

### Tour operators honoured

AMMAN (J.T.) — Tour operators and travel and tourist businessmen in Jordan were honoured at a ceremony held at the Gateway Hotel in recognition of their role in promoting tourism and travel to Jordan. The ceremony, organised by the Ministry of Tourism and Royal Jordanian (RJ), was attended by Minister of Tourism Abdul Karim Al Kabariti, Minister of Labour Ouseim Obaidat and RJ Director-General Husam Abu Ghazaleh who distributed certificates of merit to the selected group. RJ and the Ministry of Tourism are jointly undertaking a project for marketing Jordan's tourist attractions abroad. RJ offices in various countries act as tourist offices providing services on behalf of the Ministry of Tourism.

## Jordan Times

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## Time for compassion and goodwill in Lebanon

FINALLY, General Michel Aoun saw the light of day and turned conciliatory towards his Christian and Muslim rivals. After unsuccessfully battling Syrian-supported forces for over six months last year in a bid to expel Syrian troops from Lebanon and then turning his guns on his own co-religionists in an inconclusive bid to oust the militia of Samir Geagea from the Christian enclave, Aoun has finally dropped the military option to resolve his disagreements with the other Lebanese factions. While Aoun has yet to accept the Arab League-brokered Taif accord of last year, he is at least no longer openly and categorically opposed to it as such. By calling for dialogue with his enemies in Lebanon on the basis of a variation of the Taif accord, Aoun is signalling to his partners and foes in the peace process in Lebanon that any military resolution of the conflict is definitely and effectively out of question. This is indeed a good beginning, albeit it came after paying a very high cost in terms of Lebanese lives, morale and property. Aoun's showdown with Geagea alone claimed the lives of more than 750 Lebanese and more than 2,000 injured. This is not to mention the thousands of Lebanese that were killed or injured earlier on in 1989 and before. This has been a terrible price to pay in order for Aoun to accept the voice of reason and yield to the calls for dialogue. But if indeed the end of the last spasm of violence and destruction will usher an entirely new era in Lebanon, then the pain and anguish that ensued from all the previous bloodletting and destruction becomes that much less in vain. This new mood in Lebanon therefore must not be allowed to slip away and the other Lebanese factions are duty-bound to reciprocate the conciliatory moves by Aoun by extending their hands to him in a new spirit of goodwill and harmony. By offering to make the Taif accord the basis of a new dialogue among all the players in the 15-year-old Lebanese tragedy, Aoun is in effect declaring the defeat of all his misguided attempts to derail that painstakingly arrived at agreement.

The General now needs a face-saving formula and his Lebanese antagonists must not refrain from being generous in offering it to him for the sake of Lebanon and the Lebanese people who have suffered just too much already and paid dearly with their very lives and properties. To begin with, the tone of the reactions to Aoun's new conciliatory statements must likewise be positive lest the new emerging psychology against the continuation of war and destruction in Lebanon slip away once again. In particular, all the Lebanese leaderships must abstain from rubbing salt on the wounds of Aoun's failures or gloat over his military defeats. This is a time for compassion and goodwill and an opportunity to manifest the highest standards of quiet diplomacy and to stay away from rhetoric at all costs. Maybe at long last there will be peace in Lebanon and that a rare opportunity to reconstruct a new Lebanon on the ashes of old Lebanon has finally presented itself.

### JORDAN PRESS EDITORIALS

Al Rai's Arabic daily on Saturday discussed the continued Jewish immigration in Palestine in the light of King Hussein's statement to the American television network ABC. The King dwelt on the dangers inherent in the immigration and the consequences on the future of the whole Arab region, the paper said. The King reiterated the need for the international community to interfere and bring in peace to the region instead of allowing settlers on Arab land, the paper added. The King's call, it said, came during his working visit to Britain where he plans to discuss the question of Jewish immigration and the Middle East issue in general with the British leaders, seeking assistance and backing from European leaders for a peace settlement. The paper noted in particular King Hussein's warnings that the Israelis were now involved in preparations for absorbing thousands of Jews who are eventually bound to settle on Arab land, warnings echoed on Thursday by the Scandinavian countries which said that the settlement of Jews on Arab land was a violation of international law. The paper said that the King is keen on bringing the whole picture about the Middle East to the attention of the European leaders as part of his continued endeavours to bring about peace to the Arab region and end Israel's occupation of Palestine.

A columnist in Al Rai's daily newspaper expects Lebanese army commander Michel Aoun to fall any minute now following his acceptance of an end to the fighting against the government of President Hrawi and the western sector of Beirut. Tareq Masarweh says that the Lebanese will no doubt ask why should Aoun accept a ceasefire and express desire to reach a consensus with the western sector of the city after causing so much loss of life and a great deal of destruction fighting all other factions in Beirut. He says that Aoun also has now agreed that he would be ready to accept the Taif agreement and reach a compromise with the Syrians, but what is not clear is why he had not accepted this situation in the first place, and why he had fought the Lebanese Forces when he knew that his military power was limited. The writer says that the world has now lost interest in Lebanon because the Lebanese themselves continue to fight one another and do not want to achieve peace in their country. The Lebanese commander failed to realise, this, and failed also to realise that he turned down peaceful efforts and agreements offered to him through the Taif meeting, and preferred to maintain the sufferings and carry on the destruction of Lebanon, the writer continues. After all these battles in the eastern and the western sectors of Beirut, says the writer, Aoun has achieved nothing and it is only a matter of time when the army general will face his end.

## Sunday's Economic Pulse

# Governments should respect Central Bank autonomy

By Dr. Faded Faneck

CENTRAL Banks world-wide enjoy varying degrees of autonomy as independent institutions charged with certain responsibilities related to monetary policy. The most important implication of this autonomy is that the treasury should not assume that the Central Bank shall provide funds as and when needed. Governments that need more money should find ways and means to increase their revenues from taxes and other sources or decrease their expenditure or a combination of both. If the need was seasonal, i.e. within certain months of the year, the regular advance, up to 25 per cent of domestic revenue, should be more than enough to overcome the problem or fine-tune the fluctuation of cash flow at the treasury. If the need was to finance certain projects, governments can borrow capital provided they can establish the feasibility of the project and its ability to generate enough cash to service the debt in interest and instalments.

The Central Bank of Jordan for one was born independent. Later on however, it started to give in to the pressure of the treasury. It agreed to lend more than the ceiling allowed by law. It covered itself by decisions taken behind closed doors by the Economic Security Committee which over-stretched its authority to matters beyond its jurisdiction. It followed that the dinar's cover in gold and foreign exchange dropped below the limit specified by the law. This gap between the dinar's real value and its cover grew year after year until we reached the point of crisis in 1988.

The autonomy of the Central Bank is not decided solely within the Central Bank. There is nothing to protect the governor of the Central Bank from removal before the end of his five-year term as had actually happened to every governor of CBJ so far. Autonomy of the Central Bank is a government policy. The government should take advance measures to prevent the situation from deteriorating to the point where the Central Bank finds itself compelled to deliver the funds to the treasury against the law.

If the government did not charge and collect enough taxes, nor curbed its expenditure to be within its means, and therefore became short of money, no one in his right mind would expect the Central Bank to dishonour the treasury cheques and mark them: "Refer to drawer due to insufficient funds". The Central Bank could not of course refuse to fund the salaries of the civil servants and military personnel at the end of a given month because the treasury's account was overdrawn. Such a position is beyond the power of the Central Bank and could not be the responsibility of the bank's governor. Therefore it does not make sense to hold the ex-governor of the Central Bank personally accountable, as the Senator Isahq Farhan suggested in his budget speech at the Upper House of Parliament last month.

There is a limitation to the autonomy of the Central Bank that is decided by the government which should plan its cash flow on the basis that the Central Bank is not a bottomless mine for money. The government should be aware of its future needs and should do something about them instead of waiting until the last moment, putting the Central Bank in the embarrassing situation of having to break the law in order to save the face of a reckless government. We can reach such a situation only when the resignation of the bank's governor, in protest, can shock a government, and when public opinion is strong and ready to protect the governor from a greedy government that fails to plan its finances.

However, it has to be pointed out that the autonomy of the Central Bank is one thing, and the separation between fiscal and monetary policies as advocated by the Upper House of Parliament Finance Committee is something else. The autonomy of the Central Bank is desirable and should therefore be protected by the Central Bank itself, by the government and by the public at large. The separation of the monetary policy from the fiscal policy on the other hand is not possible nor desirable. Both policies complement each other, and can support or offset each other. The overall economic programme of the government should coordinate the two policies to lead the economy in a unified direction.

## Amid tensions, room for dialogue

Ziad Abu Zayyad, a West Bank lawyer and journalist publishes a Hebrew bi-weekly, Geshet. Abu Zayyad visited Amman last week. He talked to Mariam Shahin about the role his newspaper plays in advocating Palestinian-Israeli dialogue

AMMAN — As tensions rise in the occupied territories over the issue of Jewish immigration to Israel and its consequences on the Palestinians in the West Bank and Gaza Strip, few Arabs seem to feel there is room for optimism.

As delegations meet and worldwide condemnations are made the main protagonists on the ground, the Israelis and the Palestinians, continue to be on the periphery of discussions, or so it may seem. But while the Arab World held its breath last weekend about statements and counterstatements made in

Washington vis-a-vis U.S. aid to Israel and the legality of Israeli settlements in the occupied territories, and while the Israeli government was still in disarray over the peace talks, discussions between Arabs and Jews took place in the Holy Land.

## Most U.S. Jews favour land for peace

By Norma S. Holmes

WASHINGTON — A leading American political columnist and author says that more than half of American Jews want to see Israel "back on the course for which it was created" — which was to be a homeland for people who needed and wanted a homeland.

"It has to be understood that U.S. policy should be directed towards these people and not the people who feel that the only meaning of Zionism is the acquisition of more territory," Milton Viorst told members of the Woman's National Democratic Club in Washington March 8.

Viorst is the Middle East correspondent for The New Yorker magazine and author of a recent book on Israel entitled "The Sands of Sorrow."

Viorst said that a recent poll of the American Jewish community on Middle East questions refutes the argument that American Jews demand that the U.S. government uncritically support the policies of the Israelis who are in power. Some of its findings, he pointed out, were that:

— 76 per cent agree that Israel should offer the Arabs a territorial compromise on the West Bank and Gaza in return for credible guarantees of peace; 16 per cent disagree.

— 67 per cent think that Arab sovereignty in the territories is desirable or essential for Israel under terms of a peace agreement; 20 per cent disagree.

— 59 per cent think that Israel should offer the Palestinians the prospect of a demilitarised state of their own; 18 per cent disagree.

— 67 per cent hold that the continued Israeli occupation of the West Bank and Gaza will erode Israel's democratic and humanitarian character; 29 per cent disagree.

Turning to the status of the peace process, Viorst said he "supports the pressure that the president and Secretary Baker are applying on the Israeli government to get on with the elections proposal" originally made by Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir. He said that since "it's the only game in town, I support our playing in it and playing in it tough."

Viorst said he wished the Democratic leadership of the Congress would also see the situation "as an opportunity for bipartisanship. The foes of peace

must not be allowed to play out two parties off against one another, as they have successfully done in the past." He noted that "all the world seems to be moving in the direction of peace, while the Middle East alone moves in the other direction. The United States cannot give up now."

Asked to assess the effect of Soviet President Gorbachev's policies on the Arab states and on Israel, Viorst said the "Soviet objective is clear: they have no wish to promote a confrontation in the region." He said the Soviets "have made it very clear that they intend to diminish the delivery of weapons to Syria to make sure that Syria is not a threat to Israel, but they will continue to deliver enough to make sure that Israel cannot overrun Syria."

"They have made it much clearer with their client state than the U.S. has made with its client state that it would like to see a resolution of the Arab-Israeli trouble."

Asked for solutions to the problem of PLO "terrorism," Viorst said that "for the foreseeable future, there will be some malcontents on both sides" who will not agree to negotiate for peace and (will) engage in terrorism. He said that, at present, "PLO terrorism is abetted by the fact that no satisfaction whatever has been given to the Palestinian people. They have not held out to them that they might have their own state, where their energies might be channelled."

"I am not so surprised that there are a few terrorists than that there are not many more. People have been denied any kind of gratification. I think there is reason to believe that most of this behaviour can be brought under control by a new Palestinian state, committed to live in peace with Israel and in control of its own population."

Asked if he thought the PLO should be able to choose representatives in the peace talks, Viorst said that the Israelis are making a "grievous mistake" by trying to exclude the PLO from the peace talks, because the struggle is not simply one between Israel and the two million Palestinians who are living on the West Bank. "This struggle began with a rather global, monumental conflict between an Israeli nation and a Palestinian nation." He said "it is important to have an organisation that can speak for the Palestinian people both inside and outside the territories, to unify Palestinian opinion in other nations as well as inside Israel" — USIA.

and participating in discussions over the future of coexistence in Palestine/Israel.

One such "bridge," which keeps the dialogue between the Arabs and the Jews in motion, was created in 1986 by a Palestinian journalist/lawyer, Ziad Abu Zayyad. After working for Arabic language dailies for 14 years in Jerusalem, Abu Zayyad founded a maverick newspaper called "Geshet," a Hebrew bi-weekly. Geshet means bridge and aims to inform the Israelis of the needs and aspirations of the Palestinian people in the occupied territories.

"The newspaper was intended as a type of dialogue between Israelis and Palestinians," Abu Zayyad told the Jordan Times. Because the newspaper is in Hebrew and published by a Palestinian it is more likely to be read by Israelis than any other newspaper in any other language, according to Zayyad. While there is no other publication that promotes the Palestinian point of view in Hebrew, Geshet is considered to be the only regular bridge for dialogue between the two sides.

"Geshet's role of course is to influence public opinion within Israel, to make the Israelis more aware of what the people in the territories are all about," Abu Zayyad says.

While many people argue that the main target of those seeking a two-state solution in Palestine should be American public opinion to reduce the number of U.S. dollars going to Israel, Abu Zayyad argues that it is Israeli public opinion that must be addressed and changed.

"Since we will live with the Israelis not the Americans, it is the Israelis whom we must convince that a two-state solution is in everyone's best interests," Abu Zayyad says.

"At present we can make some rough estimations about public

opinion in Israel vis-a-vis the two-state solution. About 25 per cent of the Jews in Israel support movements like Peace Now. Another 25-30 per cent are very right wing and still talk about Arabs throwing Israel into the sea and things of that sort. What is left is the 45-50 per cent who are un-committed," says Abu Zayyad, who has been involved in Palestinian-Israeli dialogue since the early 1970s.

The aim of Geshet, says the Palestinian writer, is to get the ear of the uncommitted. "They can be swayed easily by any attack on a bus. But it is our duty to inform them, so that if they do decide to commit themselves they should know both sides of the story."

And public opinion can be swayed, says Abu Zayyad. "Events, the exposure they get in the press and the mere passage of time, are bound to influence public opinion."

"The Peace Now movement in Israel was dying until the intifada began. The intifada has given the pro-peace movements in Israel a completely new momentum, almost a new raison d'être," Abu Zayyad says.

Another example of how events and their portrayal in the media can actually bring about change in public opinion and sometimes even governmental action was demonstrated recently.

"When the European Community decided to stop providing Israel with funds for research projects in Israel on the grounds that it would not be appropriate since the Israeli authorities had closed all higher education institutions in the occupied territories, Mr. (Yitzhak) Rabin decided to allow for the reopening of community colleges in the West Bank and Gaza, although the closure of universities was extended for another three months. This took place only three weeks



after the EC told the Israelis they would not continue to give them their research funds," Abu Zayyad points out.

### A solution?

While Abu Zayyad, whose name has been mentioned as a possible member of the Palestinian delegation to peace talks with the Israelis, rejects a military as opposed to a political solution to the Palestinian-Israeli conflict, he says that any further delay in the "peace process" will work in favour of a breakdown in the dialogue.

Those interested in aborting a peaceful settlement have three things in mind, says Abu Zayyad. They want the intifada to dwindle in pace and activity; they want to wait another year and a half for U.S. Congressional elections, hoping the number of Israel's supporters in Congress will be increased; and they are waiting for more Soviet Jews to arrive. If these things happen then a peace settlement will be most unlikely.

Abu Zayyad believes that time has not quite run out for a peaceful solution. "I do believe that the U.S. can be convinced to allow more Soviet Jews to emigrate to the U.S. The way it stands now the Soviet Jews are being forcefully sent to Israel.

"They have no other choice.

What about self-determination? What about the Helsinki agreement where the U.S. asked the Soviet Union to allow Jews to emigrate?"

He also thinks that the role a united Europe will play in the area will be significant. "Europe will become the new power to be reckoned with in the world. We in the West Bank are already dealing with Europe directly on some commercial levels. They have insisted on dealing with us directly as we asked, not via Israel. Europe has and will increasingly have economic power that cannot be overlooked."

He believes that while much attention has been paid recently to human rights and political events in Eastern Europe and the Soviet Union, the Middle East and the Palestine scene in particular has not been forgotten.

"In fact it is, in some ways, the most convenient time in history for us. Israel was being supported because it represented the strategic interests to the West. It supposedly guarded the area from Communism and other 'undesirable elements' on behalf of the U.S. Israel was the so-called 'only bastion of democracy.' After the changes in Eastern Europe and the Soviet Union, and after the recent political changes in Jordan, that no longer holds," he says.

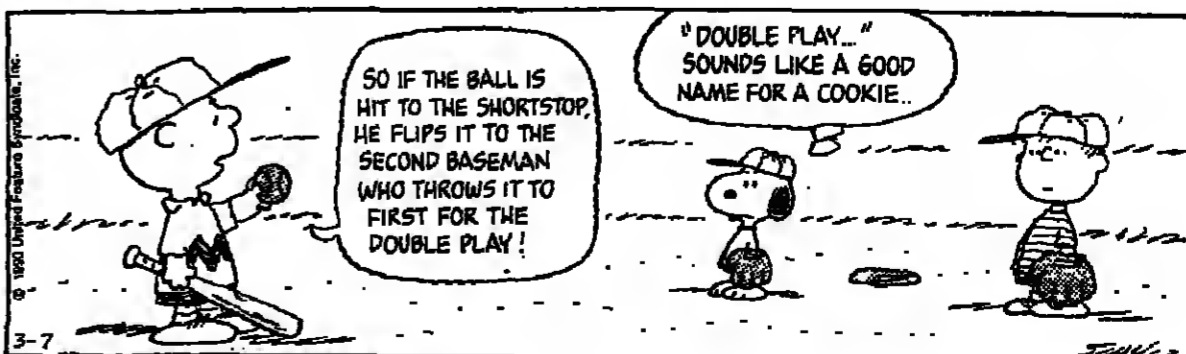
## Mutt'n' Jeff



## Andy Capp



## Peanuts



5-7  
5-7

## Bhutto — latest in line of Islam's women rulers

By Stephen Hughes  
Reuters

RABAT — What do Benazir Bhutto, the crown of the world, the light of the world and a feared North African corsair have in common?

All are or were women leaders in Muslim societies normally regarded as dominated by men.

Benazir Bhutto was hailed as the first woman head of government of a Muslim state when she was elected prime minister of Pakistan in 1988.

But Moroccan sociology professor Fatima Mernissi, in a book just published in Paris, has dug back through history and uncovered a whole series of colourful women rulers in the Islamic world.

"Sultanes Obliques, Femmes Chefs d'Etat en Islam" (Forgotten Sultanas, Women Heads of State in Islam) is a reminder that Muslim women have often played leading political roles in the past.

In her introduction Mernissi notes Bhutto was thought to be the first woman head of government of a Muslim state. Bhutto's election even drew a cry of blasphemy from one Pakistani opposition politician.

"Oh horror, never has a Muslim state been led by a woman, they cried when faced by an unnatural event in Islamic tradition," Mernissi writes.

"How can a Muslim politician beaten by a woman in an election brandish the past and exhibit tradition as a weapon to disqualify his rival?" she demands. She then writes 260 pages to show that in fact sultanas and queens could play a prominent role in Islamic history.

In the 13th century, Sultana Raziya ruled in Delhi after overthrowing her despotic brother Rostam Ad-Din, and Sultana Shajarat Ad-Durr led the Egyptian army that routed a Christian crusade and captured King Louis IX of France.

After the pre-Islamic Queen of Sheba, Yemen had several Muslim women sovereigns. They included Malika Urwa who ruled for nearly 50 years in the 11th century.

There were at least four queens in Indonesia in the 17th century, including Taj Al-Alam (crown of the world) and Nur Al-Alam (light of the world).

Mernissi has unearthed little-known details of other Muslim queens whose stories she says are ignored by most Arab historians, like Aisha Al-Hurra, the mother of the last king of Muslim Granada, Muhammad Abu Abdullah or Boabdil.

Aisha ruled the kingdom of Granada when spurned by her senile husband who fell in love with a beautiful Spanish captive. She suspected her rival was an agent of the Spanish Monarchs Ferdinand and Isabella, who finally drove the Moors out of Granada in 1492 to end seven centuries of Muslim rule over Andalusia.

One of Mernissi's most colourful heroines is the pirate Hakhmat of Tetuan, the North Moroccan city where she was the governor. As a corsair chief after the Spanish "reconquista" of Andalusia, she waged a jihad or holy war against Christian shipping when Spanish galleons were bringing gold and emeralds back from newly-discovered America.

Mernissi said in an interview that her own life was "a veritable fairy tale compared to what I would have been if I had opted for the silence of traditional womanhood."

Author of several books on the role of women in Islam, including *Le Harem Politique* (The political Harem), she was invited to speak at an international conference organised by the Nobel Foundation in Stockholm in February, and she has lectured in other European capitals, Asia and the United States.

She sees herself as a promoter of dialogue between Muslim men and women, not a feminist in the Western sense. A tireless researcher, she recently contributed to a collection of essays published this year in Casablanca under the title *Femme et Pouvoir* (Woman and Power).

She is one of a growing group of Moroccan women writers, like Soumaya Naamane-Guassous, author of a best-seller about female sexuality in Morocco published in October 1987.

With other Arab women writers, they will attend a three-day conference on the theme "Women and Writing" due to open this Saturday in the ancient walled city of Fez.



## Egyptian translates operas into Arabic

By Lee Winfield

DR. ALY Sadek is a patient and determined man. Although presently employed as an anaesthesiologist in a Jeddah hospital, (and before that, 10 years with the National Health Service in England), he has managed to dedicate years of his spare time to a project that would make a less committed man throw in the towel. This motivated maestro has taken the opera of Mozart and translated entire works into Arabic.

"Why," I asked resolute and inspired Egyptian, "would you want to take on such a gargantuan task?"

"The aim of this project is to introduce opera to the Arab World. I want first to break down those barriers which prevent listeners from understanding the plot. Once they understand the story line, it will then be possible to enjoy the entire work unimpeded by lack of comprehension."

The first of these works to appear in the market place is *Così fan tutte*, an opera Mozart completed just one year before he died. Experiencing Mozart at the peak of his creative power was the main reason for choosing this particular opera. Others already completed are *The Marriage of Figaro* and *Don Giovanni*. The operas have been digitally recorded for compact disc and since this recording facility is not, as yet, available in Egypt, Dr. Sadek had to take his entire recording crew to Katowice, 400 kilometres south of Warsaw in Poland, where he recorded his work with the National Polish Radio Orchestra.

With a reputation as being one of the best orchestras in Poland, (a country with a rich, classical music heritage), this orchestra is well known all over Europe, as a result of extensive touring throughout that continent. The soloists were Egyptian, as was the

conductor, but Dr. Sadek used a Polish chorus. This presented an unusual problem. Of course, choruses from Katowice don't have a great command of the Arabic language, so they had to be trained before going into the recording studio, as to the correct pronunciation. "This Polish chorus was very linguistically talented, so it was an easy chore to coach them," explained Dr. Sadek.

I was curious as to what sort of man could be so single-minded and devoted to something that could easily become a life's labour. Dr. Sadek actually confessed that he didn't feel he could rest until the entire body of Mozart's operas had been translated and thus made accessible to an Arabic public. He is determined to break the preconception that opera is very much a Western musical form. As a boy, he had a few piano lessons, learned to read music and was encouraged by a father who played the oud (oriental lute). He already loved to go to the opera, and as he familiarised himself with the various composers, he became aware that for him, Mozart was the one he wanted to explore most.

But it's a long road from personally enjoying an operatic performance to actually sitting down and transforming the entire libretto (the words of an opera) into another language. This entails far more than straightforward translation. Of prime import is the music. As well as following the libretto faithfully, Dr. Sadek had also to ensure that the "music and words were one entity."

He would first translate the text into Arabic, and then work it over and over until the meaning was concentrated, succinct, and fell easily upon the melody line. This is a subtle work. Fortunately, both Italian and Arabic share an abundance of vowels, and it is upon these vowels, (not the consonants) that musical sound

floats. Fortunately, too, both languages utilise the back of the pharynx, so travelling from one language to the other, wasn't as huge a hurdle as it might have been with two less compatible languages. Arabic's wealth of synonyms and its musicality were also advantageous to the project.

The book which accompanies the CD set is a major feat of translation itself. There's the Arabic translation, the original libretto in Italian, and an English version for the non-Arabic speaker to enjoy. These had to be compiled with an eye to both linguistic and artistic considerations. Dr. Sadek already had a strong command of French which he found helped enormously when it came to dealing with the Italian. However, some of the Italian vocabulary used in librettos, is no longer part of the vernacular, thus he had to consult with experts if ever there was any doubt as to the intended meaning of some of these "old Italian" words.

Is Dr. Sadek satisfied with the finished product?

"I have found the entire project very rewarding and I am delighted with the quality of the recording," he responds. His love's labour will certainly not be lost on the Arabic public, who finally have access to some of the works of one of the most brilliant composers of all time. The fruits of Dr. Sadek's obsession will be harvested by Arabic opera lovers everywhere. And rest assured, Dr. Aly Sadek is not finished yet. Anyone who wishes to buy Dr. Sadek's work will find it distributed by the U.K. company, Harmonia Mundi. You can contact Music Master Record Shop in Riyadh, Jeddah or Al Khobar for the CD set. Residents of a traveller to Cairo can catch a live performance of the *Marriage of Figaro*, which will be performed in Arabic, at Cairo Opera House for two weeks as of 1st June, 1990 — Arab News.

## Time to invest in people

The huge additional numbers now being added to the Third World's population mean that we are faced by a future which is likely to be fundamentally different from the past. Here Nafis Sadik, executive director of the UN Population Fund, argues that if the world's environment is to survive, development must be made to start where it is supposed to end — in the lives of ordinary individuals.

MOST of us cheerfully accept that we know nothing about the future — yet we have children, bring them up and launch them upon the world as if we knew exactly what tomorrow would bring. On a political level, governments act with a similar confidence. They make plans, raise taxes and invest in projects years ahead, just as if they could predict the future.

What we are all doing, governments and individuals alike, is to make assumptions. We assume that the future will be much the same as the past. We have survived so far, so perhaps we can survive so far, so perhaps we can survive the future too.

The problem is that the future is not always like the past. The projections of the United Nations Population Division, for example, have been remarkably consistent overall. For the last 30 years, they have been projecting a total world population of about six billion at the end of the century, and about eight billion in 2025. World population is now 5.23 billion and the current projection for the end of the century is 6.25 billion. People are being added in greater numbers than ever before — 80 million a year at the beginning of the 1980s, over 90 million a year in the 1990s.

Between 1990 and the end of the century, world population will grow by one billion people, or the whole of world population around 1800, or an additional four countries the size of the United States or western Europe; but with the resources of India or Kenya, because nearly all of the growth will be in Asia, Africa, and Latin America; by and large the fastest growth is in the poorest countries.

The figures are consistent — but they make our picture of the future fundamentally different from that of the past.

Numbers have grown dramatically, but the planet has not. We are beyond the point where the Earth can absorb the effects of our depredations. Not only are there two billion people more than in 1959, but they and their demands on natural resources are having more extensive and permanent effects than were dreamed of then.

Damage to the ozone layer is already spreading skin cancer in the southern hemisphere; the buildup of "greenhouse gases" threatens some coastal regions and even whole countries with destruction, as global tempera-

ture rises.

These effects are largely the results of increasing resource use in the richer countries; but the implications of population growth in the poorer countries are also frightening to contemplate.

The combination of poverty and population growth is a powerful force holding back development, and therefore holds back the growth in resources needed for the future.

One of the recent effects has been the phenomenal growth of cities and the number of people living in them. Seventeen of the 20 largest cities in the world are now in developing countries, and they are growing to sizes never before imagined. The population of Mexico City is 18 million, and will be over 25 million in 10 years' time. Sao Paulo in Brazil is close behind, with Shanghai, Calcutta, Cairo and Lagos on their heels. By the end of this century, more than half the world's people will live in cities; by 2025, the proportion of people in cities in developing countries will match that in the industrialised countries.

In the past, the cities were centres of culture and enlightenment, as well as producing wealth. The very word "civilization" implies urban living. But today's cities are sucking in the poor and dispossessed at such a rate, making such demands on resources, and producing so much waste and pollution, that they are in danger of becoming unintentional Frankenstein's monsters, parasites on the countries which support them.

In the past, planners welcomed the trend to urban living because it was felt that urbanisation would reinforce the trend to smaller families. True, urban families tend to be smaller; but the figures are based on urban residents with a fixed abode. The vast numbers of "informal residents" — shanty towns, squatter settlements and slum dwellers — which may make up a quarter to a third of a city's population today, are not included.

All the evidence is that their fertility is very high. Few health or family planning services reach them, their children have little or no education, they rarely have water or power on tap. Above all, they are very poor. Clearly, this sort of "urbanisation" has limited benefits for anyone, especially city planners.

The biggest risks are from the poorest cities; there seems to be a threshold at about one million

people.

Below that level, the amenities of urban life outweigh the disadvantages. Above it, transport, utilities, housing, health and education systems all become overburdened and unwieldy. The biggest cities attract the most people, but they cannot meet their needs. Studies have shown that the pavement-dwellers of a city like Bombay are useful, productive individuals. They work harder than most, but for much less money than average. They cannot afford proper housing, and still less the other amenities of urban life. They represent a problem which will grow, because their children start life disadvantaged and are likely never to escape the trap of long hours of labour for a poor return.

Poverty is also a powerful engine of environmental destruction in the rural areas, because the poor are forced to use whatever they can lay hands on to stay alive. If they have to plant their crops on poor land, or use more trees for firewood than they can replace, or clear hillsides for cultivation, they will do so. They know the long-term dangers of these practices — famine, deforestation and erosion — such things were never done in their fathers' time — but they often have no choice.

"Slash-and-burn" cultivation is one of the oldest methods known, and still used by well over 200 million people. It is perfectly sustainable when populations are thinly spread. A forest clearing will produce crops for two or three years and will restore itself within 15-20 years.

But today far more people are trying to use the forests than they can support. Clearings are used to total exhaustion, or called back into use before they have had time to regain their fertility. According to some leading experts, slash-and-burn cultivators are the biggest single cause of deforestation today.

An end to poverty would certainly solve the problem — but the very means of defeating large-scale poverty are those which have created the other half of the environmental problem — urban growth, industrialisation and intensive agriculture.

The solutions open to us must therefore include slower population growth, so that the curve flattens out sooner rather than later; an all-out assault on the present sources of environmental destruction; but above all a search for forms of development which allow coming generations room to live in peace and dignity.

Population programmes themselves offer some pointers to these solutions. Family planning decisions are taken by individual men

and women, and the decisions must be voluntary. Successful population programmes therefore seek to reach those individuals and convince them that they have the right to choose the size of their family, and that they should exercise this right.

It is not a simple decision, of course. Fertility behaviour and family size respond to a number of conditions, among them the level of education of the mother, the income of the family, the health status of mother and children, and so on. Social values in traditional societies tend to favour large families, and long practice is reinforced by the ties of family and status in the community. In some cultures, women have little independent power of decision. Women who live in their husbands' families are often subject to the feelings and beliefs of their husbands' mothers as well as the husbands themselves. Some women are never seen outside the home, and are never allowed to earn an income.

The aim of population programmes must be to widen the scope of the decisions available. They empower people — and women in particular — to take command of their own lives.

Women already bear a disproportionate share of the survival burden — they produce most of the food; they are in charge of water, fuel, and household management; and they also bear and take care of the new generation. "Empowerment" may thus seem another means of increasing their load.

But if development programmes are structured so as to take account of the realities of life in the village or the shantytown, the burdens will become lighter. In practice, this means redirecting development investment in favour of programmes which directly benefit women — education, health and family planning programmes in particular — as well as employment and revision of the law to give women full equality and access to development resources.

Our aim in other words must be to ensure that development starts where it is supposed to end — in the lives of ordinary people. If national and international development planning is structured with these priorities in mind, much of the rest will follow.

Such an approach by no means rules out the large-scale new technologies, inter-governmental co-operations, major transfers of resources of all kinds — but the principle is to make the large-scale serve the interest of the small. These are the seeds of survival — People magazine.

## Italian fashion to new hemline heights

By Daniela Petroff  
The Associated Press

MILAN, Italy — If Gianni Versace was daring last season when he hiked his hemlines 25 centimetres above the knee, this time he's darn right fresh with skirts so tiny they no longer cover anything.

The peek-a-boo effect of the new fall-winter 1990-1991 collection presented in Rome March 4 was no accident. The flamboyant designer, favourite son of the show-biz crowd, presented them in a variety of styles from derriere-hugging jersey dresses and

skirts to elaborately embroidered silk cocktail gowns.

Also super short was the 1990's Versace version of the loose trapeze dress first launched in the 1960s.

Gianni was a bad boy when it came to his evening wear too, slitting the side of a floor length gown straight up the leg. The same gown has a plunging backline which joins the slit at the waist in a single snap. What happens if the snap were to pop is anybody's guess.

Apart from a few raised eyebrows, mainly from the staid Milanese crowd attending the

show, the general consensus was that whatever Gianni does, he does so well he can get away with it.

One of the things Versace does best is jeweled embroidery, which this season he uses heavily to divert attention from the many bare spots in his collection. Thus a tiny A-line silk dress, which is really no more than a slip, becomes a sumptuous cocktail gown when Versace stitches a myriad of shimmering crystals and pearls in the form of a heart down the back or across the front.

Bustier tops made up entirely of encrusted jewels give subst-

ance to the micro skirt below, while simple silk stretch pants turn into sophisticated evening wear when decorated with paisley or floral prints shaped entirely out of rich sequins.

Plumage on hemlines and waistlines are another filler in the collection.

To further make up for the skimpy styles underneath, the Versace jacket is loose and full with wide sleeve and generous shawl collar, in bright shades of blue, green, yellow and red.

According to Armani, heavy knit sweaters will be worn over jackets next winter.

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# Iraq encourages cooperatives

BAGHDAD (AP) — The cooperative movement in Iraq is attempting to expand in an effort to protect consumers from high prices during the current privatisation campaign.

For about two million Iraqis who benefit from their services, the cooperatives are a source of hope for lower prices while the government is loosening its grip on the economy.

The cooperatives were set up after the ruling Arab Baath Socialist Party came to power in 1968 to provide consumers with a variety of products from matches to televisions sets.

The decision to allow people to form their own cooperatives was in line with Iraq's non-Marxist brand of socialism which rejects class struggle and gives a role to the private sector in the economy.

Sahib Al Mustawfi, head of the Federation of Cooperatives which groups 143 local societies said the federation's goals are "supplying more goods and lower prices."

During and after the eight-year war with Iran, the increasing demands of 650,000 families who belong to cooperatives outstripped the supply of many goods. One reason is a slash in imports because of high, war-induced debt. Another is a government policy to favour government-run shops which provide cheaper goods for its 1.5 million state employees.

"We receive only 15 per cent of goods supplied by the trade ministry while the remaining 85 per cent goes to the government-owned shops," said Al Mustawfi in an interview.

Al Mustawfi said despite shortages in consumer goods like television sets, refrigerators and imported clothes, the cooperatives are still seen by their members as being essential in supplying them with cheaper goods and services.

The cooperatives are buying essential goods like sugar, rice, tea and vegetable oil at subsidised prices. But due to a sharp rise in the prices of privately produced

goods, many of the cooperatives fear that they will not be able to provide these goods to their members at a cheap enough price.

To help overcome this problem, the cooperatives have encouraged their members to set up home workshops where goods such as clothes and furniture can be manufactured and then sold to the members.

"We started setting up our own small factories ... to loosen the grip of the private sector on consumers," he said.

To encourage this trend, government-owned enterprises are selling the cooperatives what they need in the way of raw materials and tools and banks are providing loans to encourage them to expand their business.

Mizban Khider Hadi, a member of the Baath Party leadership who supervises the activities of the cooperatives, told the army daily Al Qadisiya last week that the government is determined to encourage the cooperatives to produce for their own needs some

consumer goods like clothes to cut imports.

"The year 1990 should witness the beginning of replacing imported clothes by locally produced clothes in the workshops of the cooperatives," he was quoted as saying.

The government has also encouraged the cooperatives to buy shares in state enterprises which are being sold to the public.

Many cooperatives have already invested in enterprises like textiles and meat and poultry plants.

Foreign diplomats say despite the government's apparent intention to continue promoting the private sector it is also increasing its subsidies of basic goods to avert public unrest which could be sparked by prices rises in the private sector.

The government announced earlier this year it would increase the amount paid to subsidise basic foodstuffs to about 500 million Iraqi dinars (\$1.56 billion), more than double the amount paid last year.

# White House denies planning to dump central bank chief

WASHINGTON (R) — The White House Friday denied a report that President George Bush plans to get rid of Federal Reserve (FED) Chairman Alan Greenspan when his term expires in August 1991.

"The issue of reappointment hasn't even come up. It's a year and a half away," White House spokesman Martin Fitzwater told Reuters.

The Los Angeles Times reported Friday that Bush was angry with the head of the U.S. central bank because he refused to lower interest rates. But White House Economic Adviser Michael Boskin retorted — "There's no foundation for the story."

The Fed — which operates independently of the White House and Congress — exerts strong influence over interest rates.

It cherishes its independence but knows squabbling with the president can upset financial markets.

Markets shrugged off reports of these latest tensions. "You're talking about something that might or might not happen 18 months from now."

How do you act on it?" asked Prudential-Bache securities analyst Larry Wachtel.

The Los Angeles Times quoted an unidentified "longtime Bush adviser" as saying Bush was "mad as hell" about Fed policy.

"I can't believe he will reappoint him (Greenspan) and I don't know a soul in the White House who thinks he will," the newspaper quoted the adviser as saying.

Brown-Beating of the Fed by the White House is common.

Last August, White House Budget Director Richard Darman complained in an interview about Fed interest rate policy, saying that if the economy fell into a recession it would be the central bank's fault.

The White House has praised Greenspan's efforts to contain inflation, currently running at about 4.5 per cent annually, while avoiding recession.

But in its annual economic report to Congress, the White House said merely avoiding a recession was not enough.

It said faster growth would create jobs. But Greenspan has often said the Fed's main job is fighting inflation.

# 'Military spending obstructs development'

DHAKA, Bangladesh (AP) — World Bank President Barber Conable said Friday that military expenditure was one of the main obstacles to development in Third World countries.

"Debt is only one obstacle for development. So are the military budget, economic inefficiency and inadequate financial planning," Conable told reporters after he arrived in Dhaka for a four-day visit to Bangladesh.

He made the observation after a reporter asked him about the debt crisis faced by Third World nations, which annually pay about \$42 billion in debt servicing.

In a statement earlier, Conable said the World Bank has secured about \$15 billion for the ninth replenishment of the International Development Association (IDA), its concessional lending affiliate, for 1990-93.

But he cautioned that the IDA's resources will be "scarce in relation to the needs of the countries eligible for assistance."

"In view of the scarcity — no country should regard IDA funds as an entitlement — the allocations of these funds to specific countries can only be justified by economic performance," he said.

He said Bangladesh has so far received \$4.5 billion from the bank, most of it channelled through the IDA.

Denors, coordinated by the World Bank, pledged \$2 billion during fiscal year ending in June as aid for Bangladesh, one of the poorest countries with an annual per capita income of \$160.

Conable said he had not come with "any miracle" and that the visit, his first to Bangladesh, was to learn first-hand about the country's problems.

# 41m Soviets said living in poverty

MOSCOW (R) — About one-seventh of the Soviet population, 41 million people, live below the poverty line, most of them in the strife-torn southern republics, the progressive weekly Moscow News has reported.

The fewest number of poor live in Latvia, Lithuania and Estonia, the formerly independent Baltic republics absorbed into the Soviet Union in 1940 after a pact between Soviet dictator Josef Stalin and Nazi German leader Adolf Hitler.

The figures were given in a two-page investigative report titled "Below The Line," which dramatised the plight of the poor by giving case histories of a single mother, an invalid and a family of seven.

It was accompanied by photographs of an old woman eating beans out of a can, another rummaging through garbage for scraps of food, and younger women and children preparing a meal under clothes lines in a cramped communal kitchen.

According to the author, investigative reporter Vladimir Gurtyevich, 41 million of the Soviet Union's approximately 280 million people have incomes of less than 76 roubles (\$125) per month — the official poverty level.

The average urban monthly wage in the Soviet Union is 250 roubles (\$400), about half of which goes for food. Most rents are extremely low, however, since they are government-subsidised.

The appearance of the article underlined the problems President Mikhail Gorbachev faces as he tries to reform the economy.

# Arab investments switch to EC

ABU DHABI, United Arab Emirates (AP) — Arab oil wealth is increasingly invested in Europe rather than the United States, a high-ranking Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) official has said.

The body's assistant secretary-general for economic affairs, Abdullah Al Quwaiz, said GCC investments in the 12-nation European Community (EC) in 1988 were \$118 billion or 34.6 per cent of total investment as compared to only \$43.7 billion or 12.8 per cent in the United States.

In 1983, the investments by the six GCC states in the EC were 28.1 per cent of the total, and 21.1 per cent in the United States, he said.

Speaking at an international insurance conference in Abu Dhabi, Quwaiz said: "GCC in-

vestments in the EC have increased at the expense of those in the United States."

Total GCC overseas investments were estimated at \$345 billion in mid-1989 and \$342 billion in mid-1988, he said.

The GCC groups some of the wealthiest oil-exporting nations. It is an alliance of Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, Qatar, the United Arab Emirates, Oman and Bahrain. Quwaiz said that other members of the 25-nation Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development accounted for \$61.7 billion of Gulf overseas investments in 1988, or 18 per cent of the total for that year.

The Arab oil wealth was accumulated with the quadrupling of oil prices following the 1973 Middle East war. Quwaiz

# Romania needs five years to free market

BUCHAREST (AP) — Prime Minister Petre Roman said Friday that his country needs five years to unravel Romania's communist-imposed centralised economy and convert to a free market system.

"We want to bring on the market consumer goods that the population is interested in, both from internal and external sources," Roman told the Council of National Unity, the country's interim parliament.

Roman outlined the government's economic recovery plan at a session during which delegates planned to vote later on an electoral law setting down rules for May 20 elections, the nation's first free vote since 1937.

Already relatively scarce consumer goods became even more difficult to find after 1980, when dictator Nicolae Ceausescu began to drain his nation of resources in an intensive export programme to pay off Romania's national debt and build gigantic monuments to himself and his power.

The new leaders, who toppled Ceausescu Dec. 20 and executed him five days later, say Romania's state-run command economy is still reeling from that outflow of resources, with shops bare of the most basic necessities. Items such as underwear, razor blades and deodorant are unavailable except on the black market. Other basic items of clothing, such as trousers, are often unavailable in shops without bribing sales staff.

Roman noted that some political parties favour a crash programme of conversion to a market economy, while others want a more gradual switch under the new government following the upcoming elections.

"The passage to a market eco-

nomny is not an option of the government, but a national consensus," Roman told council members.

While saying the Council of National Unity did not have a mandate to impose a comprehensive economic programme, Roman said the interim leaders in fact have launched some free-market reforms.

Roman said the provisional government has passed a decree, which took effect Thursday, to allow establishment of private companies with up to 20 employees. He proposed increasing the size of such firms by raising the employee limit to 100.

Roman also disclosed that the council's executive bureau has issued a decree intended to attract foreign capital to stimulate the economy, but he did not give details of the plan.

Roman said his interim government will maintain the current freeze on the prices of basic commodities to avoid economic dislocation, but added that prices of unprocessed agricultural products should be allowed to float freely.

As an example, he noted that higher livestock prices would prevent the abandonment of animals common under Ceausescu by farmers unable to pay feed prices.

The government also should address economic problems with economic, rather than bureaucratic, solutions, Roman said.

To boost agriculture, the interim government has halted the export of chemical fertilizers produced by the nation's petrochemical industry, doubling the amount available to farmers, Roman said.

The nation's unemployment rate is estimated as high as 10 per cent.

# Swiss propose 4b franc credit to Third World

BERNE (R) — The Swiss government Friday proposed allocating credit facilities totalling 4.14 billion Swiss francs (\$2.76 billion) to Third World development between 1991 and 1994.

The money would be divided into 3.3 billion francs (\$2.2 billion) for structural aid and 840 million francs (\$560 million) to help financing and trade, the foreign and economics ministries said in separate statements.

The government for the first time set aside 100 million francs (\$67 million) to help reduce the debts of the poorest developing countries.

The credits, running for four years from 1991 through 1994, would supersede three-year facilities of 2.53 billion francs (\$1.69 billion) which run out at the end of this year.

The proposals now go to the Swiss parliament for approval.

AMMAN EXCHANGE RATES			
Saturday, March 10, 1990			
Central Bank official rates			
	Buy	Sell	
U.S. dollar	671.0	675.0	
West German Mark	1084.2	1090.8	
Deutsche Mark	393.9	396.3	
Swiss franc	444.2	446.9	
French franc	116.5	117.2	
Japanese yen (for 100)	442.9	445.6	
Dutch guilder	349.9	352.0	
Swedish crown	109.3	110.0	
Italian lira (for 100)	33.4	33.7	
Belgian franc (for 10)	188.1	189.2	

# Weekly Amman Financial Market trading

AMMAN (J.T.) — The following table summarises trading activities at the Amman Financial Market starting Saturday Mar. 3, '90 and ending Wednesday Mar. 7, '90. (Figures in Jordanian dinars).

Name of company	Number of shares	Volume of trade	Opening price	Closing price	Par value
Banking and financial institutions					
Industrial Development Bank .....	1000	1700	1.760	1.700	1.000
Jordan Islamic Bank .....	6296	21226	3.370	3.470	1.000
Jordan Kuwait Bank .....	11605	17517	1.550	1.560	1.000
Housing Bank .....	—	—	—	—	1.000
Arab Jordan Investment Bank .....	10200	34476	3.380	3.380	1.000
Cairo Amman Bank .....	—	—	—	—	5.000
Bank of Jordan .....	425	6255	14.700	14.650	5.000
Arab Bank .....	3050	768413	253.750	255.000	10.000
Jordan National Bank .....	24777	64103	2.590	2.570	1.000
Arab Banking Corporation Bank (Jordan) .....	126593	351037	2.240	2.860	1.000
Jordan Investment and Finance Bank .....	—	—	—	—	1.000
National Portfolio Securities .....	39847	92538	2.380	2.300	1.000
Arab Finance Corporation (Jordan) .....	7864	18890	2.430	2.380	1.000
Real Estate Financing Corporation .....	—	—	—	—	2.000
Beit Al Mal Saving & Investment for Housing .....	1360	1296	0.940	0.970	1.000

## SPORTS IN BRIEF

## World Cup stadium ready by May 10

ROME (R) — Work on Rome's Olympic stadium, venue for the final of this summer's World Cup soccer tournament, will be completed a month before the finals start, the head of Italy's Olympic Committee said. "I believe that even the head of the Italia '90 organising committee Luca Di Montezemolo would agree that if the contractors assure us they will hand it over by May 10, we should believe them," committee President Arrigo Gattai, who is ultimately responsible for the stadium, said. Montezemolo, who is masterminding Italy's staging of the finals, recently expressed concern at serious delays in the work being carried out at several of the 12 World Cup stadiums. "If the (construction) deadlines aren't respected there will be real and serious problems," he said. The stands of the Olympic stadium, which hosts its first World Cup match between Italy and Austria June 9, are still unfinished and it is missing its roof and seats. The Olympic stadium is a case apart in that it is owned by Italy's Olympic committee, whereas the other 11 World Cup arenas are municipal property. Gattai, who was speaking at the opening of a World Cup exhibition, said he was sure the Italia '90 committee would have the stadium by the deadline agreed so they could equip it with the technology necessary for international media coverage. Earlier this week Gattai said work was proceeding as fast as safety allowed. Fifteen people have been killed since work began to modernise the 12 stadiums.

## UEFA lifts ban on Racing Club

GENEVA (AP) — The Union of European Soccer authorities Saturday upheld an appeal by Racing Club Strasbourg against a three-season ban from European Club soccer competitions. A UEFA statement said the French team must instead pay a fine of \$100,000 and an additional \$13,000 to meet appeal costs. UEFA also declared the club's former chairman, Daniel Hechter, "persona non-grata" in European soccer circles for his role in the case involving the non-payment of a transfer fee for West German star Thomas Allofs. In January UEFA ruled that Strasbourg be barred from the next three tournaments for which it qualified in punishment for its failure to pay \$2 million to FC Cologne. UEFA had set the fee last year after the two clubs disagreed on transfer costs. UEFA's appeals board, chaired by Leon Stassle of Switzerland, said it lifted the ban in the interests of innocent third parties, namely the club players and spectators. The statement, although still citing Strasbourg for persistent violation of UEFA rules, noted the club had settled the outstanding transfer fee since January.

## GOREN BRIDGE

WITH OMAR SHARIF  
& YANNAN HIRSCH  
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♥ 8 5 3 2  
♦ Q 8 6  
♣ A J 7 3

**EAST**  
♠ 10 8 6 3  
♥ J 7 6 4  
♦ J 10 7 5  
♣ 10 9 8 6 2

**SOUTH**  
♠ A Q J 9 7 5  
♥ A K Q  
♦ A 4 3 2  
♣ Void

The bidding:  
South West North East  
2 ♠ Pass 2 NT Pass  
3 ♠ Pass 3 ♠ Pass  
4 ♠ Pass 5 NT Pass  
6 ♠ Pass 6 ♠ Pass

Opening lead: Ten of ♠

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North had a difficult response to make to South's demand bid. Everything had a flaw, so North elect-

ed to make a "negative" response first and then drive the hand to slam. When South could not accept North's general grand slam try of five no trump, North wisely settled for the small slam. With the ace of clubs apparently wasted, even that was no bargain.

If you went up with the ace of clubs and drew trumps, you are going down along with most players we know, unless you divined the lie of the diamonds. The secret of the hand comes at the very first trick. Since one diamond discard won't do you any good for the moment, play low from dummy and ruff. Now draw trumps in four rounds, discarding clubs from the table, and cash your high hearts. The gods are with you and the suit divides evenly, setting up a long heart on the board.

To make the contract, all that remains is to get to dummy. Therefore, cash the ace of diamonds and lead a diamond to the queen. Your luck seems to be out when that loses to East's king, but suddenly a sleeping giant awakes. East is down to nothing but clubs, and must lead one to the ace. One losing diamond goes on the ace of clubs and another on the long heart. Those charms have done their work.

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Performances: 3:30, 6:15, 8:30, 10:30

## Kuwait thrashes World Cup contender UAE

KUWAIT (AP) — Kuwait thrashed World Cup soccer contenders the United Arab Emirates (UAE) 6-1 in the closing match of the 10th Gulf cup tournament. The half-time score was 3-0.

The match had been billed as merely a warm-up exercise for the UAE, but instead the team faced a merciless drubbing by Kuwait, who had already won the tournament title Wednesday.

Morale dipped low as for the first time in the history of the tournament, the two runners-up UAE finished at the bottom of the table, having collected two points from two draws.

The UAE's Polish coach Bernard Blaut, who took over the team's training in January from

Brazilian Mario Zagalo, avoided the press after the match.

The biennial tournament, which started Feb. 20, was played by Kuwait, UAE, Bahrain, Qatar, Oman and Iraq. Iraq however pulled out half-way, protesting a referee's decision. The seventh would-be participant, Saudi Arabia, boycotted the tournament in protest against an emblem chosen by the organizers of the tournament.

As Kuwait's Brazilian coach Luis Felipe said, the first two goals were virtually a gift from the UAE keeper Muhsein Musabeh and they broke the UAE's spirit.

"Until the first goal, the game was evenly balanced," he said. The first goal came in the 13th

minute. Wafid Abdul Karim sent a through-pass for the star of the match Mohammad Ibrahim.

With the title in their pocket, the Kuwaiti leaders could indulge in taking risks, and Ibrahim took a shot on the run from out of the box. His left-footed shot completely beat UAE keeper Musabeh, though the angle was narrow.

The UAE's striker Zuhair Bakheet and skipper Abdullah Ali combined well in the 25th minute and a one-two between them gave Bakheet an open chance. But the striker squandered the chance.

Kuwait then raced to a 3-0 lead within a space of two minutes before half time. A third Kuwaiti corner was taken by Mehbood

Jumah, who tapped the ball to Moid Hadad. Hadad linked the ball with a cross inside the box where Ibrahim headed home to give Kuwait 2-0 in the 40th minute. The goal also made Ibrahim the highest scorer of the tournament.

The aggressive Kuwaiti striker, however, added two more goals to take his total tournament goal tally to five.

Kuwait made it 3-0 in the 41st minute. Hadad won a ball from UAE full back Ibrahim Mir against the run of the play. The rest was to beat keeper Musabeh, who was already shaken after conceding two "silly" goals, and Hadad made it 3-0. Kuwait's coach replaced in the

second half his in-form keeper Samir Saeed, who was jointly awarded best keeper award with Bahrain's Himoud Sultan.

Kuwait raced to a 4-0 lead in the 50th minute when Abdul Karim crossed a perfect ball for Ibrahim to head home. In the 55th minute, Abdul Rahim crossed and Hadad headed into the goal past diving Musabeh under the UAE bar.

Musabeh was substituted in the 59th minute but the newcomer Abdul Kader also failed to stop the best goal of the tournament. Abdul Karim took an angled shot from 20 yards straight into the goal after Bakheet had cut the deficit with a 73rd minute header. Kuwait's substitute keeper

Khalid Shemmari dropped an easy header, giving Bakheet opportunity to score his only goal of the tournament.

Bakheet, Ali Thani and Adnan Taliyani were the three strikers for UAE, and skipper Abdullah Ali also boosted the striking force on many occasions but they either shot wide or gave away the ball inside the box.

"I have seen this team in Singapore from where they qualified but here they are totally different... there seems to be something terribly wrong," Felipe commented, adding: "They however have the potential."

The game was played at Kuwait's Peace and Friendship Stadium.

## Aston Villa regains 1st place in English soccer

LONDON (AP) — Tony Daley faked out two defenders on a 40-metre dash to score the opening goal as Aston Villa regained first place in the English soccer league with a 2-0 victory Saturday at home against Luton.

David Platt, who leads the First Division in scoring with 22 goals this season, scored the other goal as Villa broke two-game losing streak and jumped past Liverpool to the top of the standings.

Villa now has 55 points and Liverpool has 53 points and a game in hand on the leaders. Arsenal, which tied 1-1 Saturday at Manchester City, is in third place with 46 points.

In other division one games, Nottingham Forest was defeated

4-2 by visiting Coventry, Southampton won 2-1 at home against Derby, Tottenham defeated last-place Charlton 3-0 and Chelsea and visiting Norwich played to a scoreless tie.

There were two English FA Cup games Saturday, with Crystal Palace moving into the semi-finals of the annual tournament by winning 1-0 at fourth-division team Cambridge on a 78th-minute goal by Geoff Thomas off a corner.

Thomas' low shot went through a crowd of legs and Cambridge goalie John Vaughan did not seem to see the ball until it was in the corner of the net.

Ian Marshall scored the winning goal on a penalty shot in the

93rd minute as host Oldham defeated Everton 2-1 in overtime to move into the quarterfinals of the Football Association Cup tournament. It was the second replay for the teams, which had played to ties in their previous two contests.

Everton had taken an early lead on a Tony Cottee goal in the 12th minute, but Oldham's Roger Palmer tied the game in the 33rd minute with his 12th goal of the season. Then Marshall, who moved to Oldham from Everton two years ago, won the game just three minutes into the 30-minute overtime period.

There are two FA Cup quarter-finals scheduled for Sunday.

## Britain's star horse — out for more glory

LONDON (AP) — He's got his own fan club with 1,000 members, received 40 Valentine cards last month and is known Bombay to the Bluegrass state.

Desert Orchid is no ordinary race horse. "He's a phenomenon," said Richard Burridge, main shareholder in Britain's top steeplechaser known to his fans as Dessie.

"Americans are the champions of baseball, we in England are the champions of jump racing and Dessie stands for all that's good in it," Burridge said.

"For a start he's a gary, he's flashy, he's a spectacular jumper, an incurable showoff and has incredible guts and enthusiasm."

Thursday, thousands of Dessie fans will flock to Cheltenham racecourse to see the country's best-loved horse go for his second straight victory in the (\$195,000) 115,000-pound Gold Cup, second only to the grand national on the British steeplechase calendar.

"I don't like making predictions but he should win easily," Burridge said. "He's so versatile, he can win over anything from two miles to 2 and 4, on hard ground or soft."

The gold cup is run over 5.2 kilometres. Several other horses have won the gold cup twice — golden miller won it five times in the 1930s. Desert orchid has the course, which Burridge said is far tougher than in the old days. "It's left-handed, like most tracks in the United States," he said. "Whether by design or accident, Dessie won all his early races on right-handed courses. He never seemed to perform well on left-handed tracks."

It was at Ascot in October 1983 that desert Orchid first bloomed, surging into a front-running gallop and demolishing the field to win by 20 lengths.

## Who's the greatest boxer in history

By Kelly P. Kissel  
The Associated Press

HUNTINGTON, West Virginia — Who's the greatest is debatable, that you can see; it's either Buster Douglas, or Muhammad Ali.

The answer's found here, in this little rhyme; Buster's tops for now, Ali's best for all time.

Three years ago James "Buster" Douglas, a little-known boxer, was an Ali fan and posed in Atlantic for a picture with his idol during one of the longtime champ's personal appearances.

On Friday, a month after

knocking out Mike Tyson to become heavyweight champion of the world, Douglas shared centre stage with Ali, whose love of rhyme is legendary in the boxing world.

"To sit down with Muhammad Ali was something I've been waiting for," Douglas said. "I have been truly blessed."

John Johnson, Douglas' manager, is from West Virginia and arranged for Douglas to visit this town despite hundreds of other requests for personal appearances. Ali, already booked for an appearance at a Golden Gloves

youth boxing tournament here, was the reason.

"What happened here is what it's all about. We went to this man's suite upstairs, the door opened and he hugged him. Part of our dream was to have this man love and respect us," Johnson said, looking at Ali.

Ali, slowed by Parkinson's disease but ever-quick on wit, painted his own scenario of winning back the heavyweight crown, even at age 48.

Douglas would beat Holyfield, former champion George Foreman would beat Douglas and Ali

would beat Foreman, Ali said. Douglas, 29, and others laughed until Ali put up his dukes and said: "He's surprised, but it's my avenue. I can still move."

At a press conference afterward, both convened a genuine meeting of a mutual-admiration society.

"It's an honour being with him because what he did shows that he is a true champion. He took a great fighter, a knockout artist, and beat him to show that he was the real knockout artist," Ali said of Douglas.

Douglas in 1987.

"He was wearing blue jeans and a red shirt, and he had a snotty nose," he said.

Douglas acknowledged his apparel and a sinus problem. He returned Ali's compliment.

"It's an honour to be alongside this man I have idolised my entire career," he said.

Johnson and Ali pointed to Douglas when asked who was the greatest boxer today.

"He's the greatest now," Ali said. "I'm the greatest of all time."

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## Mandela may cut short foreign visit

## 10 dead in S. African unrest

CAPE TOWN (R) — Racial and political violence killed 10 people in South Africa at the start of the weekend and encouraged speculation that Nelson Mandela may cut short his first visit abroad since his release from jail.

One victim was hit by a train after being tied with wire to a railway track.

Media reports from London and Stockholm said the African National Congress (ANC) leader would curtail a visit to ailing ANC President Oliver Tambo in Sweden next week.

The reports said Mandela, in Tanzania until Sunday, would return home soon to try to halt the violence that has flared since his release in February after 27 years in South African jails.

Police reported 10 people killed during the 24 hours to dawn

Saturday, including a man tied with wire to a railway track near Johannesburg.

Violence flared across the country Friday night with officers firing pistols, shotguns and tear gas in clashes with black rioters and vandals.

Police offered no explanation for the trouble which followed riots in two of South Africa's nominally-independent tribal homelands.

About 100 people were arrested in Cape Town Saturday when police halted an unauthor-

ised march through the city to press for the release of political prisoners.

About 3,000 people staged a similar march through the Indian Ocean port of Durban but police did not intervene.

Mandela thanked African states Friday for their support in the struggle against apartheid in South Africa but said there was still work to be done.

He interrupted his Tanzanian visit to make a 24-hour trip to Ethiopia at the invitation of the Ethiopian government and Organisation of African Unity (OAU).

He left Addis Ababa to return to Tanzania to visit ANC military and educational camps before a scheduled departure Sunday for Sweden, his first trip outside Africa since he was released from

prison.

Mandela's purpose in visiting Sweden is twofold — to pay homage to ANC figurehead Tambo at the clinic where he is undergoing therapy after a stroke, and to cement the close ties between Stockholm and the ANC, Swedish officials say.

The Swedish News Agency (TT) reported that British Labour Party leader Neil Kinnock would visit Mandela during his planned stay in Sweden from March 12 to 17, but British and Swedish officials were unable to confirm this.

The worst overnight violence was in Kaitleng, a black township east of Johannesburg, where four deaths Friday pushed the toll in a week-long eruption of violence to 28.

## Quayle in Barbados

BRIDGETOWN, Barbados (AP) — U.S. Vice President Dan Quayle is turning to economic and trade talks with Caribbean nations, while also sounding out regional leaders on how to ensure a peaceful transfer of power in Nicaragua.

Quayle arrived Friday in Barbados after discussions in Venezuela on the prospects of moving the Nicaraguan rebels to enclaves within Nicaragua as an interim step in demobilisation.

Quayle also discussed Central American peace issues with Barbados Prime Minister Lloyd Erskine Sandiford. And he planned Saturday to brief the leaders of five other Caribbean nations on his talks Friday with Venezuelan President Carlos Andres Perez and Spanish Prime Minister Felipe Gonzalez, who also was in Venezuela.

But the meeting here was expected to focus primarily on economic issues of concern to Barbados, Dominica, St. Vincent and the Grenadines, St. Kitts, St. Lucia and Antigua.

After meeting with the Caribbean leaders, Quayle was scheduled to fly later Saturday to Santiago, Chile, to represent the United States at the inauguration Sunday of President-Elect Patricio Aylwin.

On the first day of his week-long trip to Barbados and South America, Quayle was pressed by Perez and Gonzalez on the need for rapid disbandment of the U.S.-built rebel army, known as the Contras, in Nicaragua.

"They were pressing very hard for very early disbandment," said Sen. Edward Kennedy, a Democrat who is accompanying Quayle to Chile and who sat in on the meetings Friday.

Kennedy said he agrees the Contras should be demobilised immediately, regardless of Republican President George Bush's insistence that their security must be assured for reintegrating into Nicaragua.

One official traveling with Quayle indicated the administration is leaning toward an interim relocation in designated areas. United Nations peacekeeping troops would ensure order under that scenario, making sure there were no clashes between the Contras and members of the Nicaraguan army, which is still controlled by the outgoing Sandinista government.

## North kept Poindexter informed on contra action

WASHINGTON (AP) — Oliver North has testified that his boss, former National Security Adviser John Poindexter, sent him to be questioned by lawmakers about covert aid to the Nicaraguan rebels that couldn't "be revealed to anyone."

The former White House aide, testifying as a reluctant leadoff witness at Poindexter's Iran-contra trial, admitted he lied when questioned by House of Representatives members about whether he was covertly helping arm the Nicaraguan Contras for the administration of President Ronald Reagan.

The retired Marine Lieutenant Colonel insisted that "no one ever told me to lie to Congress" about the covert operation to help the rebels after Congress shut off money.

But North said that when he told Poindexter his misgivings about attending the meeting he was told: "You can handle it, you can take care of it."

North said "I didn't walk into the meeting intending to lie." But the former National Security Council aide staff officer admitted that he "did not tell the truth" during Aug. 6, 1986, session with members of the House Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence.

"I recall deceiving them about the full measure of my involvement," said North.

Poindexter, a retired navy rear admiral who was national security adviser for Reagan in 1986, is charged with conspiracy, two counts of obstructing Congress and two counts of making false statements to cover up North's military assistance and fund-raising for the contra and U.S. knowledge of a 1985 shipment of Hawk missiles from Israel to Iran.

He is the highest-ranking official from the Reagan administra-

tion to go on trial in the Iran-contra affair, in which the United States sold arms clandestinely to Iran and used some of the proceeds to supply Nicaragua's contra rebels despite a congressional ban on such aid.

It was the worst foreign-affairs debacle of Reagan's presidency. Compelled to testify by Iran-contra prosecutors, North conceded few points without a struggle during a day of relentless questioning by prosecutor Dan Webb.

When Congress banned U.S. military aid to the rebels, North said he was told "in so many words" he was responsible for the Contras. North said he kept Poindexter fully informed of his work to help buy and ship arms to the rebels.

North reluctantly admitted he supervised the arms-supply operation put together by retired Air Force Maj.-Gen. Richard Secord.

"At no time, as you were running your operation, you never tried to conceal or hide what you were doing from either Admiral Poindexter or Robert McFarlane?" Webb asked, the second reference being to Poindexter's predecessor.

"I did not," North said. "Were you ever trying to direct that operation on your own, independent of your superiors?" Webb asked.

"Never," North replied. "Didn't you keep them apprised of all of your contra-related activities?" Webb asked.

"Yes," North said. North testified that Poindexter, while he was McFarlane's deputy, was among those who told him to work to provide assistance to the Nicaraguan Contras as Congress was shutting off direct U.S. military aid.

## Police, U.S. troops search for arms in Panama City

PANAMA CITY, Panama (AP) — Police and U.S. troops searched tough neighborhoods house-to-house for weapons and drugs to try to stop a crime wave that has swept the city since the December U.S. invasion.

"We want to get criminals off the street so our citizens can once again walk around without fear of being held up," said Vice Minister of Government and Justice Ramon Lima.

He said 760 people were arrested in the Friday raids, but they yielded none of the large caches of weapons believed still hidden following the ouster of dictator Manuel Antonio Noriega.

"We did not confiscate the amount of weapons we had expected," Lima said in a news conference. He said police found 47 shotguns, pistols and revolvers but no military weapons.

## COLUMBIA

## Post card arrives 56 years late

STROUD, England (AP) — A woman has received a postcard from her father nearly 56 years after it was mailed, and more than 40 years after he died, the post office said Thursday. Dorothy Horton, 73, of Stroud in western England, said she instantly recognised her father Bill's writing on the early colour postcard, dated June 20, 1934. The postcard was found behind old closets last week during refurbishment of the Stroud Sorting Office, a post office spokeswoman said, requesting anonymity. Mrs. Horton was then 17-year-old Dorothy Meadows, but old-timers at the sorting office remembered the name and were able to trace her, the spokeswoman said.

## Precious Einstein film recovered

COLUMBIA, South Carolina (AP) — Nearly 1,220 metres of irreplaceable film on Albert Einstein that fell from a delivery truck last week was found and returned to the University of South Carolina's Film Library. The film was discovered by a resident on a downtown street, along with three other packages from the truck.

## Global weather (major world cities)

	MIN.	MAX.	Weather
AMSTERDAM	07	45	11 62 Rain
ATHENS	11	52	19 66 Cloudy
BANGKOK	17	82	25 77 Cloudy
BANGKOK	24	75	33 91 Clear
BUENOS AIRES	22	72	23 73 Rain
CAIRO	12	54	28 66 Clear
CHICAGO	04	39	12 52 Part
COPENHAGEN	01	24	08 46 Cloudy
FRANKFURT	0	27	14 41
GENEVA	07	45	15 59 Clear
HONG KONG	17	63	19 62 Clear
ISTANBUL	09	48	14 57 Cloudy
LONDON	07	43	14 57 Cloudy
LOS ANGELES	11	52	17 62 Clear
MADRID	05	41	16 52 Clear
MECCA	20	63	31 89 Cloudy
MONTREAL	06	21	05 41 Clear
MOSCOW	04	39	05 41 Clear
NEW DELHI	12	53	30 86 Clear
NEW YORK	06	42	09 48 Cloudy
PARIS	09	43	15 58 Cloudy
ROME	05	41	14 57 Clear
SYDNEY	0	27	14 41
TOKYO	07	45	17 63 Cloudy
VIENNA	0	27	14 41

X = indication missing information.

## WORLD NEWS IN BRIEF

## Baker, Shevardnadze to meet in April

MOSCOW (R) — Soviet Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze will have talks with U.S. Secretary of State James Baker in Washington from April 4 to 6, the official Soviet News Agency (TASS) reported. The meeting will cover the final arrangements for June's summit meeting between Presidents Mikhail Gorbachev and George Bush in the U.S. capital. Baker and Shevardnadze held their last round of talks in Moscow in February, when they cleared the way for a series of arms control agreements to be signed at the summit.

## 5 abducted Indian officers freed

SRINAGAR, India (AP) — Five police intelligence officers, abducted at gunpoint the day before by Kashmiri Muslim separatists, were freed before dawn Saturday, state Governor Jagmohan said. The governor said the five men were released unharmed after government loudspeakers blared all-night warning that "strong action" would be taken if the kidnapped officers were not released. "Our approach of firmness in dealing with the terrorists worked," Jagmohan said. The five members of the Jammu-Kashmir state police intelligence branch reappeared without warning in the same area from which they were abducted Friday night, he said. No one claimed responsibility for the abduction and no demands were made, officials said. The five men — including two subinspectors and one head constable — had been in a jeep patrolling a congested residential area in the heart of Srinagar when they were abducted.

## Castro urged to call free elections

LIMA, Peru (AP) — A group of intellectuals and economists and their host, presidential candidate Mario Vargas Llosa, have urged Fidel Castro to call free elections in Cuba. The three-day meeting, called "the liberty revolution," was organised by the Liberty Movement, a group of neo-liberal politicians and business people that formed around Vargas Llosa when he entered the race for presidency. The theme of the conference was the political changes taking place in Latin America, Eastern Europe and elsewhere. A letter to Castro was issued Friday by conference participants, and accused the Cuban leader of proposing a "holocaust" by promising to "sink the island in the sea before abandoning Communism." "What has been sunk throughout the world, comandante, is communism," the letter said. It said Castro's refusal to recognize the evidence of communism's decline was "putting the country on the verge of civil war."

## Tibetans protest Chinese rule

DHARMSALA, India (AP) — The Dalai Lama, addressing more than 10,000 Tibetan exiles on the 31st anniversary of a failed uprising against Chinese rule, said Saturday that Tibetans must continue the quest for freedom. "The positive changes that took place in Eastern Europe are a clear indication that truth and desire for peace cannot remain suppressed," said the Tibetan temporal and spiritual leader, who won the 1989 Nobel Prize. The Dalai Lama, revered as a god-king by his followers, fled the Tibetan capital of Lhasa on March 17, 1959, a week after the start of the revolt against China. He made his way across the snow-covered Himalayan mountains to India and eventually to Dharamsala, which now serves as the seat of his government-in-exile. After the ceremony in which the Tibetan flag was raised, thousands of Tibetans and hundreds of foreigners who had travelled here for the anniversary staged an 8-kilometre-long protest march through this town in the Himalayan foothills of northern India.

## Filipino general buried after clash

MANILA (AP) — A popular brigadier general was buried Saturday, six days after he was slain during a clash between government troops and supporters of a suspended governor charged for involvement in December's failed coup. The coffin bearing the body of Brig.-Gen. Oscar Florendo was lowered into a concrete tomb two metres below the ground at noon (0400 GMT Saturday) following a three-gun salute. Relatives, close friends and many local reporters cried openly as a trumpet played taps and workers cemented four concrete slabs to seal the tomb. A helicopter dropped flower petals to the crowd of at least 1,000 who attended the burial. Florendo, chief of the military's Civil Relations Office and a popular former armed forces spokesman, was slain Sunday while on a peace mission in the northern Philippines. At least 150 vehicles formed a convoy that brought his coffin from suburban Camp Aguinaldo, the armed forces headquarters, to the "heroes cemetery," 14 kilometres south.

## Soviets to move nuclear test site

WASHINGTON (AP) — The Soviet Union will cut back underground nuclear testing and shift the site for the explosions from Asia to an island inside the Arctic circle, according to a report published Saturday.

The move to the Arctic site will compel the Soviets to conduct fewer tests and will hamper development of weapons that could be used against the United States, the Washington Post newspaper reported in its Saturday edition. The decision resulted from strong political pressure inside the Soviet Union, the newspaper said, basing its information on unidentified Soviet and U.S. sources. Col.-Gen. Vladimir Gerasimov was reported as telling committees of the Supreme Soviet, the national legislature, that the Defence Ministry plans to conduct 27 more tests at the Semipalatinsk site in Central Asia before closing it in 1993. That rate is roughly 40 per cent below the current pace of testing.

## Gorbachev working too hard — Medvedev

BOLOGNA, Italy (R) — Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev works too hard and should take a break for the sake of his country's citizens, former dissident historian Roy Medvedev has said. "Sometimes Gorbachev loses his temper, sometimes he'd do better not to speak — he works too much and should think about having a rest because his health is important," Medvedev told reporters at a congress of the Italian Communist Party. "In this period, he works at least twice as much as every other Soviet politician and at least four times as much as (maverick politician Boris) Yeltsin," he said.

## Haiti leader to resign

PORT-AU-PRINCE, Haiti (AP) — Military ruler Lt.-Gen. Prosper Avril is expected to resign Saturday and hand power to the army chief in a transition to civilian rule, a Western ambassador and a high-ranking army source said.

The ambassador said Avril, the target of five days of nationwide protests, will relinquish power to Maj.-Gen. Herard Abraham, the army's commander-in-chief.

Abraham, in turn, will have 72 hours to hand over the government to a civilian council headed by a supreme court justice, said the ambassador, who spoke on condition he would not be further identified.

A source close to the army high command, also speaking anonymously, said Avril would remain in Haiti after stepping down and a

48-hour curfew would be imposed as a precaution against disorder. The source said the main problem facing the high command was how to handle the possible resistance among 1,000-member Presidential Guard, many of whom are hostile to the idea of democratic government.

The idea of setting up a civilian council headed by a supreme court justice to run the country was proposed jointly last week by the Unity Assembly, an umbrella group of 11 political parties and a civic organisation, best means of preparing for legitimate elections.

On Friday night, the unity assembly issued a statement calling for an "unlimited total paralysis of the country," if Avril didn't resign by Monday.

## U.S. to add warships, planes in war on drugs

WASHINGTON (AP) — The U.S. Defence Department has said it is adding warships, aircraft, radar equipment, dog teams and other military resources to the war on drugs in the Atlantic, Pacific, Caribbean and along the southern U.S. border.

The plan greatly extends the military's involvement in efforts to stem the flow of drugs into the United States and to help Colombia, Bolivia and other Latin American countries combat their drug cartels on land, sea and in the air.

"Deploying appropriate elements of the armed forces ... should, over time, help reduce the flow of drugs into the country," Defence Secretary Dick Cheney said in a prepared statement.

Cheney, who did not appear at a Defence Department news conference announcing the new strategy, made clear in his written statement that the impetus for wider military involvement in the drug war came from the White House, not the Defence Department.

"President (George) Bush gave the Defence Department a clear set of marching orders when he issued his national drug control strategy" last September, Cheney said.

The Defence Department in the administration of President Ronald Reagan resisted diverting military forces to the drug war. Cheney's announcement won praise from some members of Congress, although critics questioned whether the U.S. military would be welcomed by the Latin American nations.

"American troops will be entering a quagmire more complex than Vietnam," said Kevin Zeese, vice president of the drug policy foundation, a private group which advocates treating drug abuse as a health problem, not a criminal issue.

Congressman Charles B. Rangel, chairman of the House of Representatives Select Committee on Narcotics, applauded Cheney for providing an assurance that no military people or resources would be used in a Latin American country.

## Educators face problem of keeping children in schools

JOMTIEN, Thailand (AP) — Poor nations face major problems in building schools for their children, but just as daunting a task is getting them to stay in class and complete their education, international experts say.

The 155-nation world conference on education for all, which ended Friday, suggested common goals of providing basic education for all children by the end of the century while cutting the adult illiteracy rate in half.

More than 100 million children in poor nations have no access to schooling and about 1 billion adults worldwide cannot read or write, the conference reported. Educators said mounting debts, civil strife and other problems prevalent in these countries blocked educational development.

But Federico Mayor, the head of the U.N. Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO), said that in many parts of the developing world, only half the children who began primary school completed it.

Barry Hartley, an Australian expert, said that in parts of rural northern Vietnam he has just toured only 25 per cent of the few children who began primary school finished it.

Hartley, who has visited schools in many Third World countries, said one basic problem is making them relevant to the needs of the students.

He said it should, for example, enable villagers to read literature on how to care for their children's health, or the instructions on a bag of fertilizer that would improve crop yields.

A booklet being used to impart useful information while teaching

people to read is "facts of life," published by the U.N. Children's Fund and translated into 60 languages. It provides information on giving birth, breast feeding, immunisation and disease.

But Hartley said many schools still used colourless teaching methods common in the 19th century. Typically, he said, 15 pupils shared one book and a poorly trained teacher stood in the front of the classroom and lectured them.

"When it is like that you can't blame the kids for not coming back," he said.

But particularly in the Indian sub-continent and sub-Saharan Africa, it won't be easy to correct the chronic shortage of good teachers as populations grow quickly.

Hartley added that in many countries, students had little incentive to learn because of the barriers to social mobility even for the educated. Too often, they only wound up living on the fringes of the city in low-level civil service jobs, he said.

Zimbabwe's Education Minister, Fay Chung, said in an interview that expansion of educational opportunities must be accompanied by expansion of economic opportunities.

"If you say you are going to educate people, what sort of future are you going to offer them?" she said. "Once you have educated people, they don't want to live as peasant farmers any more."

Zimbabwe is cited as an education success story, and Ms. Chung said almost all its children now have access to schooling, compared to only a third of them before independence in 1980.

## THE Sunday Crossword

Edited by Herb Etkesson

## MUSIC BOX

By Arthur S. Verdesca

- ACROSS
1. Apollo
  2. Author of "Gentleman Prefer Blondes"
  3. Asian legend
  4. Ulan
  5. Mountain-top nest
  6. Predecessor
  7. Woe to me!
  8. In reserve
  9. HORROR
  10. SAGAS
  11. Overdue
  12. Swift
  13. Moment
  14. Lake Michigan
  15. Carney's cousin

- DOWN
1. Cushman
  2. Coping
  3. Before
  4. Publisher
  5. Route for a liner
  6. Bingo's cousin
  7. Conquisher
  8. Glove to glove
  9. Griotique
  10. Underminding
  11. Lullaby
  12. Playground
  13. "as saying"
  14. Ship hulls
  15. See BA
  16. Tetch
  17. Edible tube
  18. Kinsman: abbr.
  19. Upright constantly
  20. Russ. province
  21. Seed covering

## Diagrams

21 X 21, by Frances Burton

- ACROSS
1. Spar
  2. Baseball team
  3. Busy as —
  4. Exam
  5. Chival
  6. Singer Adams
  7. Money drawers
  8. "— as saying"
  9. And — sweet
  10. Dromedary
  11. Rudy
  12. "When in Rome, —"
  13. Thrifty phrase

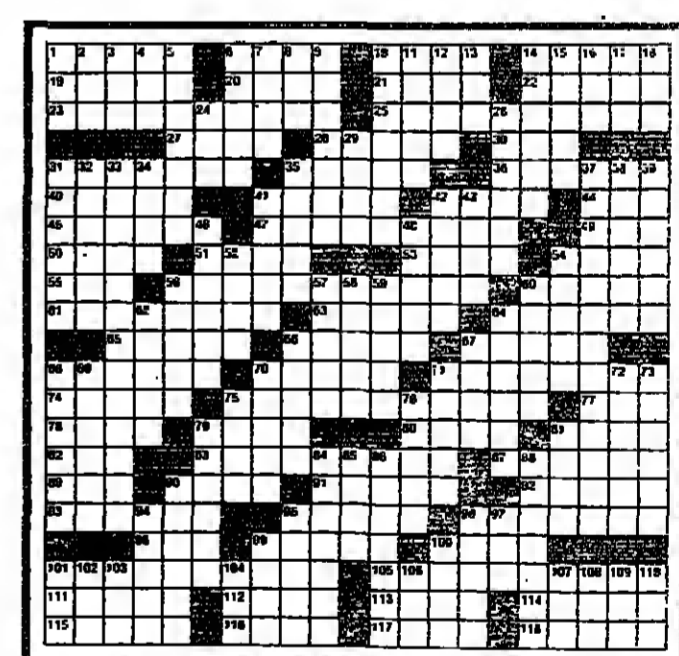
- DOWN
1. CA county
  2. Assist in crime
  3. Antifreeze
  4. Examine
  5. Agreeable
  6. Summer drinks
  7. Ready money
  8. River of song
  9. "An — keeps away"
  10. Lure port
  11. de Mito
  12. Paradise

- ACROSS
27. Stage whisper
  28. King's home
  29. Keen
  30. Accurate
  31. Astern
  32. Wild blue
  33. yonder?
  34. Mild explosive
  35. McCuon or Allen
  36. Out of luck
  37. majesty
  38. Sharpens
  39. As sick
  40. Strivinsky

- DOWN
20. Whitewalls
  21. Draw out
  22. Search for
  23. Ellipse
  24. Agreeable
  25. Summer drinks
  26. Ready money
  27. River of song
  28. "An — keeps away"
  29. Lure port
  30. de Mito
  31. Paradise

- ACROSS
45. Musical composition
  46. Winter hazard
  47. Edible pod
  48. Adjust a piano
  49. Pub drink
  50. Makos gentle
  51. Statues
  52. Ominous
  53. Catch
  54. Dances
  55. Fi. river
  56. Bore
  57. Rhetoric
  58. Showy flower

- DOWN
38. Possesses
  39. Thus
  40. Navigational system
  41. Come in
  42. Actor Dawson
  43. Dances
  44. House wings
  45. Kickoff point
  46. Fi. cap
  47. Netless
  48. Rhetoric
  49. Flight site
  50. Cloth ridge
  51. Rainbow



Last Week's Cryptograms

1. Look, cigarettes are bad and drinking is worse, but bacillus is 16 kill us.
2. Former weightlifting champion beat all five antagonists to win beachpress event.
3. Could you have naly haircuts and shaves in budget as fringe benefits?
4. Wayward wanderer found future on mountain in Wyoming.

## CRYPTOGRAMS

1. U HISS-BULLICIT ULK IGIL-ZIBWICK  
WONNSI YABWATIC LIGIC OZZICIA U YCATT  
HACK. NAOLKT —By Lutz H. Jones
2. IIA WOPPT GLOP CANT'S HAAVEID KAT.  
YAWSLAG CAN KEIM PLOP OHN PLS BAAM  
AISY OTS POVSL —By Les Barry
3. WIVW SOMMTZR PTFLOEIZ SIAI ATBZC  
TPWPCIG QV FRTJGIBP XA QXXLTZR  
IWMJZREIP. —By Gordon Miller
4. CRTJDIR IERLIC QC BLEB OEOBUI AUTIC  
SP EMPTY E MPTV. —By Ed Hedderson

